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THE HINDU

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NEARBY

BBMP elections: SEC files plea before SC

BENGALURU

The State Election Commission has filed an application before the Supreme Court of India seeking that the stay on the implementation of the order of High Court of Karnataka be vacated so that polls to BBMP could be conducted.

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Under campaign, Bescom repairs 4,802 transformers

BENGALURU

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has taken up maintenance of 4,802 transformers in its jurisdiction of eight districts since the Department of Energy launched the transformer maintenance campaign on May 5. Of this, 1,719 transformers were serviced in Bengaluru Urban district.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

BJP may inch closer to majority in Council

BENGALURU

Having come close to getting a simple majority in the Karnataka Legislative Council in the elections held to 25 seats from the local authorities in December last year, the BJP has more chances in the coming weeks to secure majority for the first time in the Upper House.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

SC puts colonial sedition law on hold

Court suspends pending criminal trials under Section 124A, allows Centre to reconsider the law

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday suspended pending criminal trials and court proceedings under Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code, while allowing the Union of India to reconsider the British-era law.

"All pending trials, appeals and proceedings with respect to the charge framed under Section 124A of the IPC be kept in abeyance," a three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, ordered. It was argued in court that nearly 13,000 people were already in jail under the sedition provision.

However, adjudication with respect to other Sections of law, if any, would proceed if the court concerned was "of the opinion that no prejudice would be caused to the accused".

Hair-trigger cases | National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report says 356 cases of sedition under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code had been registered and 548 people arrested between 2015 and 2020, with just six convictions. **A look at a few recent cases:**

Voice of reason: A protest in Karnataka against a sedition case slapped on a school in January 2020 over a play performed by students. • AP

Disha Ravi: The 21-year-old Bengaluru-based environment activist was arrested by the Delhi Police on February 14, 2021 for allegedly creating and disseminating a 'toolkit' on the farmers' protests. Granting her bail on February 23, 2021, a Delhi court said "the offence of sedition cannot be invoked to minister to the wounded vanity of the governments"

Kashmiri students: Three of them studying in Agra were arrested on October 28, 2021 for allegedly posting a WhatsApp status praising Pakistani players after their victory against India in a T20 cricket match. They were languishing in prison till April 26 this year even after securing bail on March 30 from the Allahabad High Court due to the non-availability of local guarantors, a high security amount and police verification

Sharjeel Imam: The JNU student leader had allegedly made inflammatory speeches at Jamia Millia Islamia on December 13, 2019, and at Aligarh Muslim University on December 16, 2019 during the anti-CAA stir. A court has framed charges against Imam, who has been in judicial custody since 2020, for sedition and other charges

Kanhaiya Kumar: In 2016, a group of students from Jawaharlal Nehru University held a poetry session to mark the third anniversary of the hanging of 2001 Parliament attack case convict Afzal Guru. The Delhi Police later charged the then JNU student union president Kanhaiya Kumar, Umar Khalid and others with sedition

No new FIRs

The court also made it clear that it "hopes and expects" the Centre and States to restrain from registering FIRs, continuing investigations or take coercive measures under Section 124A while the "reconsideration" of the colonial provision was on.

Adding a fail-safe to protect civil liberties against any future misuse of Section 124A while it was under the Union's microscope, the court ordered that the persons accused in fresh cases were free to approach courts, which would consider their cases taking into account the order of the Supreme Court and the "clear" stand of the Union that the provision was abused and needed "re-examination".

The court, meanwhile, gave the Union of India liberty to issue a directive to States and authorities to prevent the continued misuse of the sedition law.

The Bench, including Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, said the court's directions would hold until further orders.

The top court order would act as a powerful message against the rampant misuse of the sedition law by governments to silence dissent and violate personal liberty. Undertrials booked under Section 124A can now use the order to seek bail.

The court listed the sedition case for the third week of July.

The order came after the Centre, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, acknowledged that the law was not in tune with the current times. The government had urged the court to pause its hearing of a batch of petitions challenging Section 124A until the government completed its "reconsideration process" of the sedition provision.

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Rijiju talks of 'Lakshman rekha'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nobody should cross the *Lakshman rekha* and the court should respect the government and the legislature just as the government respects the court, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Wednesday after the Supreme Court stayed sedition proceedings, while the Opposition parties welcomed the order.

Several parties, including the Congress, the CPI and the CPI(M), urged the court to quash the law without waiting for the government to complete its review exercise.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Rijiju said: "We respect each other. The court should respect the government, legislature. The government should also respect the court. We have clear demarcation of boundary and that *Lakshman rekha* should not be crossed by anybody."

The top court's decision also led to a sparring between the former Congress chief, Rahul Gandhi, and Mr. Rijiju, who questioned the Congress's record.

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SC slams govt. claim that only President has pardon power

It reserves order in Perarivalan case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A claim by the Centre that the President, and not the Tamil Nadu Governor, has "exclusive power" to decide on the plea for pardon by the Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict A.G. Perarivalan drew flak from the Supreme Court on Wednesday before it reserved the case for judgment.

A three-judge Bench, led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao, said the government's argument, if taken on face value, would leave Article 161 (the constitutional power of Governors of States to grant pardon) a "dead letter".

"So, according to you, the power to grant pardon is exclusively that of the President... Well, in that case, pardons granted by Governors throughout the history of this nation across States are all null and void?" Justice B.R. Gavai quizzed Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Natraj, appearing for the Centre.

The court said then by the Centre's logic, every murder case convict would have to move the President for pardon.

"The end result of your submissions is that all pardons granted for IPC offences by Governors all these years are unconstitutional... If we try to accept your submissions, it would mean the President would have the exclusive power to grant pardons... So, over the period of 70-75 years, all pardons granted under Article 161 by Governors for the IPC are unconstitutional," Justice Rao exclaimed at the nature of the Centre's submissions.

A.G. Perarivalan

The court was hearing the Centre's defence of the Tamil Nadu Governor's conduct of sitting for years together without acting on the advice of the State government to pardon and release Perarivalan, and topping it off by referring the file to the President without taking a decision.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Odisha, A.P. on alert over cyclone

West Bengal expects zero impact from Asani

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Cyclone Asani may briefly enter Andhra Pradesh but turn away into the sea before petering out, according to the updated forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday.

Authorities in West Bengal expect no impact from the cyclone, though Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are on alert. Significant rain has been reported in several districts in these States.

As per the latest observations by the IMD, the storm was crossing the Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Narsapuram. It is expected to become a weaker 'deep depression' by Wednesday night and a 'depression' by Thursday.

A gold-painted chariot that washed ashore in the rough sea in Srikakulam district on Wednesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It is very likely to move towards the northeast along Narsapur, Yanam, Kakinada, Tuni & Visakhapatnam coasts till evening of today [Wednesday] and emerge into west-central Bay of Bengal off North Andhra Pradesh coasts by today night. It is likely to weaken further into a depression by 12th May morning," the IMD said in its evening bulletin.

Considerable uncertainty exists around accurately predicting the track of the cyclone. Until late Tuesday, it was expected that it would approach north Andhra Pradesh, turn and move parallel to the coast towards West Bengal. "It is likely to enter as a weakened storm," M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said.

Though the seas are expected to be rough until Thursday, windspeeds associated with the storm are expected to decelerate to 45 kmph from the current 95 kmph by early Thursday.

Several areas in Nellore, Prakasam, Kadapa, Visakhapatnam and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh received very heavy to heavy rainfall and most places in the coastal districts received light to moderate rainfall. Coastal districts will continue to receive rainfall on Thursday as the deep depression is likely to move along Yanam, Kakinada and Tuni coasts by morning.

(With inputs from bureaus)

City's maximum temperature dips by nine degrees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

If the steady drizzle and the cool weather have kept you wondering if it was indeed May, Bengaluru did record, what India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials are terming, one of the lowest maximum temperatures in at least a decade. The maximum temperature on Wednesday was nine degrees below normal.

On Tuesday, the maximum temperature was 24.3 degree Celsius, while on Wednesday it was 25 degree Celsius. "Bengaluru city had a 9 degree Celsius departure from normal," said Geeta Agnihotri, Director, IMD, Bengaluru.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 5

Court stays higher fee for RC renewal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the notification levying a higher fee for renewal of registration and fitness certificate, and a higher penalty for delay in applying for the renewal, for vehicles older than 15 years. A Vacation Bench of Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the interim order, valid till the next date of hearing, on a petition filed by the Federation of Karnataka Lorry Owners' Association, Bengaluru.

The federation questioned the legality of the notification, issued on April 1, 2021, levying the higher fee and penalty, with effect from April 1, 2022, for vehicles older than 15 years. Higher fee and penalty are without authority of law, it contended.

Journalist shot dead during Israel raid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JENIN

Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, a veteran of the Al Jazeera television network, was shot dead on Wednesday as she covered an Israeli Army raid in the occupied West Bank.

The Qatar-based TV channel said Israeli forces deliberately and "in cold blood" shot Abu Akleh, 51, in the head during unrest in the Jenin refugee camp.

Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said it was "likely" that "armed Palestinians – who were indiscriminately firing at the time – were responsible for the unfortunate death of the journalist".

REPORT ▸ PAGE 11

Delhi HC delivers split verdict on marital rape

It grants certificate of leave to appeal

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Two judges of the Delhi High Court on Wednesday gave a split verdict on the question of criminalising rape within marriage, leaving the law unchanged.

Justice Rajiv Shakdher, who headed the two-judge Bench, struck down as unconstitutional the exception to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, which says that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife aged 18 and above is not rape even if it is without her consent.

However, Justice C. Hari Shankar rejected the plea to criminalise marital rape noting that any change in the law has to be carried out by the legislature since the issue requires consideration of various aspects, including social, cultural and legal.

"The right to withdraw consent at any given point in time forms the core of the woman's right to life and liberty which encompasses her right to protect her physical and mental being," Justice Shakdher said, calling for a change in the 162-year-old law.

Both judges granted certificate of leave to appeal to the Supreme Court as the case involves substantial questions of law.

> The right to withdraw consent at any given point in time forms the core of the woman's right to life and liberty
> JUSTICE RAJIV SHAKDHER
> DELHI HIGH COURT

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ANOTHER REPORT ▸ PAGE 8

Wait for State Cabinet expansion to continue

Impending local body polls may come in its way

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
BENGALURU

The wait for ministerial expansion in Karnataka will continue indefinitely as the party central leadership is said to be not inclined to allow it when the State may be compelled to hold elections to a slew of local bodies. They include elections to zilla and taluk panchayats besides the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) council, depending upon the impact of the Supreme Court's directive on holding elections to local bodies in Madhya Pradesh.

Crucial elections

It is learnt that the BJP central leadership wants its Karnataka unit to focus now on these elections which are crucial for strengthening the party organisation as well as cadre ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls.

Though a clear picture on whether the elections to ZPs, TPs, and the BBMP council will have to be held immediately is yet to emerge, the party central leadership is reportedly keen that priority should be given to preparing for these polls rather than ministerial expansion.

While the ZP and TP polls are a major platform for strengthening the party in rural areas, small towns, and semi-urban areas, the BBMP is crucial as it accounts for 28 Assembly seats – the biggest chunk in the 224-member State Assembly.

Also, the BJP high command is said to be not taking lightly even the elections to the Legislative Council scheduled for June 3.

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Text & Context

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Robust re-structuring: A view of a Hyundai car manufacturing plant at Irungattukottai near Chennai. • FILE PHOTO

THE FULL CONTEXT

Industrialisation in TN's development

A closer look at Tamil Nadu's manufacturing industry and its current challenges

M.VIJAYABASKAR

Tamil Nadu, along with Kerala, is noted for its relatively inclusive development path. Both States have registered higher levels of development and lower levels of poverty compared to other major States. Unlike Kerala, Tamil Nadu's development trajectory however draws upon a dynamic manufacturing and high-end services sector for its sustenance. As Kalaiyarasan and I argue in our book *The Dravidian Model: Interpreting the Political Economy of Tamil Nadu*, it is the State's ability to combine dynamic industrialisation with effective investments in public health and education that has translated into better social and economic outcomes. Why is the process of industrialisation critical to the State's developmental vision?

Modernisation for social justice

The Dravidian movement that shaped the political ethos in the State held that modernisation of the economic sphere is critical to secure social justice and address caste-based inequalities. The colonial regime fostered the emergence of new sites of power through expansion of the sphere of modern administration and economic activity that allowed caste elites to further strengthen their power by virtue of their access to education. Social justice therefore demanded democratising access to this sphere.

A caste-centric society also generated a range of economic unfreedoms for lower castes as it codified and structured a hierarchy of labourers with low caste labour confined to low status occupations requiring manual labour. Workers, as Periyar pointed out, were 'born labourers' with little scope for economic mobility. Addressing such unfreedoms therefore warranted a movement of lower castes into non-traditional sectors which can undermine such rigidities. Two sets of processes were therefore critical to this project. To enable labour to move out of inherited occupations, modern education had to be broad-based so as to help lower caste workers acquire skills that caste-based division of labour deny them. Investments in education along with incentives for the entry of children from lower caste households into education and affirmative action policies constitute one critical axis of intervention. Such interventions have to be backed by ensuring employment opportunities through an expansion of the modern economy. Industrialisation is therefore crucial to shift workers from traditional occupations, agriculture in particular, to the non-farm and urban economy. Interventions, therefore, sought to spur manufacturing along with democratisation of access to education and skills.

Employment and education

The State has indeed met with a degree of success in this regard. According to the State Human Development Report released in 2017, Tamil Nadu, along with Kerala, derives the least share of State income and employment from agriculture (both as wage labour and as cultivators) among major States. In fact, the latest Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households and Land and Holdings of Households in Rural India, 2019 published by the National Statistics Office (NSO) indicates that only 26.3% of rural households in the State are agricultural households. These are households that derive a minimum of ₹4,000 per year from agricultural activities including livestock produce, and with at least one person reporting to be self-employed in agriculture either in principal or subsidiary status. Even by this generous definition, nearly 3/4 of rural households in Tamil Nadu are non-agricultural compared to the all-India average of just 53%. In fact, even among agricultural households in the State, a higher share of income from wage employment was derived from non-agriculture sectors than agriculture.

Three aspects of this process of diversification are noteworthy. Investments in education, technical education in particular, has been crucial. As per the All-India Survey of Higher Education for 2019-20, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in tertiary education for those in the age group 18 to 23 was the highest in the State at 51.4%. The GER for Scheduled Caste (SC) youth was lower at 39.6%, but still the highest for SC youth among all major States. Tamil Nadu also has the highest number of students enrolled in polytechnics as well as the largest number of professional colleges in the country.

The manufacturing industry

On the demand side, the State stands third in terms of manufacturing output after Maharashtra and Gujarat, but is home to the largest number of factories and workers employed in organised manufacturing in the country. Manufacturing is relatively more labour intensive in Tamil Nadu. Textiles, garments, auto components and leather goods sectors dominate the manufacturing landscape of the State. Importantly, the share of wages in the Tamil Nadu manufacturing sector has been relatively better than in other major manufacturing States. As per data furnished by the Annual Survey of Industries, the share paid as wages and salaries in gross value added by organised manufacturing in the State was 19% in 2018-19. This share was only 11.2% and 13.6% in Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively.

This higher wage share is true for specific sectors within manufacturing. In the apparel making sector, which is labour intensive and spread across the three States, the share accruing to labour in Tamil Nadu's garment industry is again higher than the other two States. While it is 32.5% and 26.2% in Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively in 2018-19, the share of wages and salaries to workers in Tamil Nadu was 38.2%.

Finally, Tamil Nadu is the only major State that has a strong manufacturing sector along with a vibrant knowledge-based services economy. Though Maharashtra continues to be a leading software services exporter because of its early mover advantage, its share has steadily declined whereas Tamil Nadu has increased and sustained its share of exports. The Chennai region has also emerged as the most important hub for the Software as a Service (SaaS) segment in the country. Apart from software services, the State is also a major healthcare service destination. These are clearly outcomes of building up human capabilities in the State.

Nevertheless, a few recent trends challenge the ability of such industrialisation to sustain the State's inclusive development trajectory.

At a crossroad

Globally, and within India, there has been a steady decline in the ability of manufacturing to generate the quantum of jobs as it had in the past. More cars and two-wheelers, for example, are being produced by fewer workers. This decline in employment elasticity of manufacturing undermines the sector's ability to act as a conduit for labour to exit from agriculture. Though manufacturing managed to fulfil this role until the last decades of the 20th century, Dani Rodrik, the Harvard-based economist points out that recent technological shifts and changes in trade regimes constrain this process in late developing economies like India. High levels of automation of routine and low-end tasks that earlier offered avenues to enter into the non-farm sector has adversely affected this process of mobility. Second, possibilities of import substitution, such as erecting trade barriers so as to promote domestic manufacture of imported goods, is a lot less possible under the current trade regime and hence difficult for new actors to enter.

A more worrying trend, currently, is about the quality of jobs in manufacturing.

Lack of quality employment in the manufacturing industry

In the past, there were vertical mobility paths within firms in the organised sector that allowed a semi-skilled worker entering as an apprentice in a factory to move on to become a supervisor and even attain managerial positions in the factory over time. Such mobility pathways are almost non-existent in the present manufacturing sector. Most firms recruit freshers from polytechnics and/or Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) as apprentices. At the end of the mandatory period of training, they are rarely retained. Workers are expected to fend for themselves in the labour market based on the skills they have acquired. Heads of technical institutes like polytechnics and ITIs recall that leading firms in Chennai would offer regular employment to even 20% of such apprentices in the past. At present, they say that it is hard to see even three or four of them getting such long-term employment contracts. The possibility of a long-term career is even less in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which have been adversely affected by a range of factors over the last quinquennial.

Apart from reduction in mobility pathways within firms, a major deterrent for workers to seek employment in manufacturing is the relatively lower wage rates. Depending on the firm, apprentices are paid anywhere between ₹8,000 to ₹12,000 in the Chennai and Coimbatore region which are major manufacturing locations in the State. This tends to be lower than what they can earn from say working as drivers or as delivery boys in the gig economy. The chances for wage levels to increase in the factories are not high in the short to medium term. Many also come from poor households, often belonging to the first generation of learners accessing higher education, with parents working in the informal economy. Any income or health shocks at the household level or disruptions in the familial architecture of social protection drive them to seek immediate employment that may often be outside manufacturing.

There are a couple of additional factors that deter youth from taking up manufacturing jobs. Those who migrate to Chennai or Coimbatore from rural areas for these jobs are burdened with considerable expenditure on housing and food. This constrains their ability to save. Further, youth seem to prefer the autonomy and flexibility of time that service sector jobs give them compared to the eight-hour work shifts in manufacturing and a strict work regimen.

Dependence on migrant labour

As a result, there are less takers for jobs in the manufacturing sector. In the Coimbatore region, known for its dynamic micro, small and medium enterprises, this inability to attract or retain labour in the factories has led to entrepreneurs expressing opinions against welfare provisioning to poor households as it undermines incentives for youth to work in their units. Many rely on inter-state migrant labour to address this gap as thin profit margins and new vulnerabilities deter them from improving the terms of employment. This preference for migrant labour is translating into a nativist demand to employ only in-State labour among some political quarters. Heads of technical institutes do concur that many students do not continue in manufacturing jobs or use their skill sets acquired in these educational institutions. Thus, investments in education are not translating adequately into gainful employment for large sections of youth as the manufacturing sector is not able to attract skilled labour.

Finally, efforts to move manufacturing to less industrialised regions in the State have met with mixed success. While there has been movement into the periphery of existing clusters, industrial parks set up in backward regions have not met with the desired success, especially in southern Tamil Nadu.

This raises the obvious question: Why are manufacturing firms not able to improve the quality of employment? To begin with, the MSME sector has been adversely affected by a range of factors that include macro-economic shocks, supply chain disruptions due to the pandemic and more recently high raw material and logistics costs. Second, at the entry level, firms do not require workers with advanced skill sets. Third, firms may not be able to pay competitive wages to in-State labour on account of lower productivity or lower returns especially in comparison to the middle and higher end services sector. Fourth, smaller manufacturers are of the opinion that given the higher returns to speculation in real estate markets, incentives to invest in manufacturing are lowered. Finally, firms also rate the skills imparted in technical institutes to be of inadequate quality.

Solutions and challenges

In an open economic environment, a policy focus on mere expansion of volume of output may not sustain manufacturing in the long run. Competition based primarily on low wage costs may lead to a situation where returns may continue to fall even as output and employment expand. To arrest the possibility of such 'immiserising' growth, it is important to ensure that firms diversify over time into segments of manufacturing where skill, quality, technology and design intensify. This will allow both firms and the State to appropriate more returns, and generate new employment and production linkages as it is difficult for firms with merely low-cost advantage to enter or compete. Appropriation of more value also enables producers to improve the quality of employment.

The fact that the wage share as well as educational attainments is higher in Tamil Nadu suggests an opportunity. The higher labour cost creates strong incentives for firms to utilise skilled labour in ways that can augment value addition. In other words, rather than focussing on cheap labour costs, incentives must be created for firms to deploy available skills to upgrade in product markets. In the absence of such upgrading, there is likely to be a strong downward pressure on wages or conditions of work. In terms of policy, this clearly requires a move away from merely providing financial incentives like low-cost land, power or tax concessions.

Strong institutions that can facilitate innovation in key sectors in collaboration with the private sector are therefore important. Institutions like the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) and the South India Textile Research Association (SITRA) are examples of such possibilities. Globally, the experiences of Hsinchu Science Park and the Industrial Technology Research Institute in Taiwan are worth taking on board. The fact that the State has competencies in both manufacturing and in knowledge-based services opens up more policy space for intervention.

Need for strengthening education ecosystem

Human capabilities are clearly critical for this process. Despite broad-basing of education, learning outcomes are far from satisfactory in the State. As per the data of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) on learning trends in the State for the period 2012-2018, only 46% of students in Class 5 in government schools could read a Class 2 textbook in 2018. Though there has been an increase in learning levels for each cohort over the years, the need to bridge learning outcomes continues to be strong. This is true of skill-based competencies built in tertiary education as well, according to industry insiders. Governments seek to address this by generating in-demand sector-specific skill sets through short term skilling programmes. Given the growing emphasis on such short-term skilling programmes, it may not be out of place to state that such investments may not translate into quality jobs.

Bhaskar Chakravorty and Arjun Bedi in their analysis of such a skilling and employment initiative in rural Bihar point out that though there is an increase in employment immediately after such skilling, the effects are completely nullified within two to six months after completion of training. One third of them dropped out of their jobs because salary levels were too low to offset their livelihood expenses. Studies in fact indicate that it is the quality of primary and higher levels of education that shape employment outcomes and labour productivity.

This also ties in with Dani Rodrik's argument on the future world of work. The distinction between skill sets demanded in the manufacturing sector and knowledge-based sectors are blurring with the diffusion of digital technologies in product manufacture on the one hand and automation of routine tasks on the other. Rather than investments in sector-specific policies, he suggests a need for economy-wide investments in human capabilities. Sector-specific short-term skilling too may benefit when it is backed by an overhaul of pedagogies and curricula in the mainstream education system. Here again, the experiences of Singapore or Taiwan in building up skill ecosystems offer useful lessons.

Just industrialisation

The emphasis on building up of generic cognitive capabilities should not however be at the risk of undermining lower end manufacturing. At present, garment and leather goods production have been key to entry of less educated women into the modern workforce in the State. Policies that address the factors behind the inability of firms to move such sectors to lower cost locations within the State are critical to ensure spatial and social balance to the process of transformation. Spatial planning of economic diversification is going to be critical to ensure that land use is directed towards optimal employment.

Finally, though the state is known for its investments in public health and education, perceptions that these services are of insufficient quality have pushed sections of poor households to shift to the private sector, adding to household expenditure. This process has to be reversed to ensure that real wages of workers improve. Additional investments in social infrastructure near manufacturing clusters are therefore essential.

Social security provisioning in the State that has been crucial to address the vulnerabilities of workers also needs strengthening. This will insulate workers from economic shocks that firms may incur in the process of transition.

M. Vijayabaskar is with the Madras Institute of Development Studies and is also Member, State Planning Commission

BBMP elections: SEC files plea before SC

Commission wants stay on implementation of HC order vacated so that polls can be conducted

CHITRA V. RAMANI
BENGALURU

The State Election Commission has filed an application before the Supreme Court of India seeking that the stay on the implementation of the order of High Court of Karnataka be vacated so that polls to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) could be conducted. This is in the light of the Supreme Court, on Tuesday, directing the State Election Commissions across the country to conduct polls to the local bodies every five years. The term of the last BBMP Council came to an end on September 10, 2020.

The term of the last BBMP Council came to an end on September 10, 2020.

Earlier, with the delay in conducting polls, two former councillors Abdul Wajid and M. Shivaraju filed a petition before the High Court of Karnataka seeking early polls to the BBMP. The SEC had also gone to court citing incapability to hold polls due to delay in completing the delimitation and fixing reservation.

Meanwhile, the State Government brought in the BBMP Act, 2020, and increased the number of wards from 198 to 243. The High Court, however, ruled that the polls should be held for 198 wards. The Government then appealed against the High Court order in the Supreme Court, which then stayed the matter.

Highly placed sources in the SEC here said that the commission had also written to the State Government to allow conduct of polls immediately.

Sources said that due to technical reasons, the Supreme Court's order would not be applicable to the BBMP, since the stay in the matter of polls to the civic body was issued by the apex body itself. "If the stay had been issued by the High Court or any other lower court, it would have become null and void in light of the apex court's order in the matter of polls to 321 Urban Local Bodies in Madhya Pradesh. However, the stay for BBMP polls has been issued by the Supreme Court itself," the source pointed out.

'Draft delimitation'

Meanwhile, the BBMP is still to finalise the delimitation of 243 wards. The Government has dropped the proposal to include 1-km area outside into the BBMP limits. Within the existing limits, the boundaries for the 243 wards have been drawn up. BBMP's Special Commissioner (Welfare) Sharath said that the draft would soon be published seeking objections, if any, from the public.

Sources said that cutting across party lines, none of the MLAs was in favour of polls being held anytime soon. They all favoured polls being held after the Assembly elections that are due in 2023.

"Each ward has at least 4-5 ticket aspirants for the BBMP elections. If the BBMP elections are held, at least three aspirants are likely to rebel against their respective political party. This will have serious ramifications for all parties," sources said.

Sources added that a final decision on the BBMP elections would be decided by the State Government after Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai returns to the city from New Delhi.

Under campaign, Bescom repairs 4,802 transformers

Pre-monsoon showers in May broke 600 electricity poles

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has taken up maintenance of 4,802 transformers in its jurisdiction of eight districts since the Department of Energy launched the transformer maintenance campaign on May 5. Of this, 1,719 transformers have been serviced in Bengaluru Urban district.

The pre-monsoon showers in May had also resulted in the breakage of 600 electricity poles, which have been repaired, officials said.

The transformer campaign will now be extended up to May 20 as work has gained pace. Explaining what maintenance entails, a Bescom official said: "Sometimes, the sleeves in the conductors need replacement and at other times, there will be some loosely connected lines which might give rise to sparks when there is wind or rain. We tighten these wires also under maintenance. Other things like oil refiling and general maintenance are also taking place".

Along with this, to avoid electric hazards, Bescom has also identified 5,000 transformers which need to be relocated to safer locations, an official said. Starting April 25, the department has so far shifted 2,587 transformers, data shows. "There were three to five pole transformers which would sometimes prove an obstruction for pedestrians. Now with this process, we are replacing them with special design transformers to make sure they are safe and pedestrian friendly," the official added.

A transformer on a footpath at Jayanagar in Bengaluru. •BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Monsoon preparation

With monsoons expected to arrive earlier this year, Bescom is also set to conduct their routine maintenance before rains.

"We have not started the pre-monsoon maintenance work yet as SSLC and PUC exams were going on and these works sometimes lead to power cuts," said an official. He also added that it is the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) which needs to cut down bigger trees before monsoons to avoid unnecessary power cuts.

"BBMP is taking more time to clear trees. If they cut the bigger branches soon, then we can pull lines accordingly. Our teams are ready for monsoon", the official added.

Submit caste census report to SC: Siddaramaiah

This will help ensure justice to Other Backward Classes in political reservation, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah has urged Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to fix reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBC) based on the socio-economic survey (caste census) conducted by the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission and submit it to the Supreme Court to pave way for elections to the local bodies in the State.

"This is the only solution to the problem that has arisen out of the Supreme Court order on Tuesday. The State Government should seek legal opinion and consult the Opposition parties to prevent injustice to OBCs," he said.

He added that the apex court in 2010 said that reservation provided to education and employment cannot be implemented in politics. It had further said that political reservation can be provided based on the data collected by Backward Classes Commission and after vetting it at three levels.

"The Supreme Court has been reiterating the same since then. The court on Tuesday said that if political reservation is not possible for backward classes, the election has to be conducted with reservation to Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the local bodies election." Mr. Siddaramaiah said despite the court stating that this will be applicable to all States, the BJP Government has taken a legal route and wasting time. "The State Government should not take this as an ego issue and in the public interest it should accept the Kantharaj Commission report."

He said that the apex court in its earlier orders said that the State Government can provide data of earlier surveys to the new commission and based on it the commission can submit an interim report in two weeks.

The former Chief Minister said the situation in Karnataka is different from other States. Despite all these developments, if Karnataka fails to provide justice to backward classes, the Government will be responsible, Mr. Siddaramaiah warned.

PSI exam scam accused involved in another scandal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Rudragowda Patil, prime accused in the police sub-inspector (PSI) recruitment examination scam, is also accused in the Public Works Department (PWD) Assistant Engineer recruitment examination scam reported in December last year.

17th accused

Patil is the 17th accused in the PSI exam scam and the police have arrested 16 others, including candidates and the chief of the examination centre so far.

Patil's name came to light when one of the candidates arrested for using Bluetooth device revealed his name, stating that many candidates had approached him for key answers.

Though the police had stumbled upon Patil's name in the initial stages of investigation, they did not pursue the lead. With the fresh revelations, the A.P. Nagar police, based on the directions of the city Police Commissioner, intensified the probe to charge Patil.

Brought to city

On Tuesday, a team of police went to Kalabuargi and brought him to the city under body warrant.

He was produced before the court and taken into custody for further investigations.

Elderly man set on fire by relatives over property row

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

An elderly man was allegedly set on fire by his relatives over a property row in Makali village in Doddaballapur on Tuesday.

The critically injured Ramaiah was admitted to Victoria Hospital and is battling for life. According to the police, Mr. Ramaiah owned a piece of land out of 4.3 acres of ancestral property.

The accused, who are close relatives of Mr.Ramaiah, were trying to take over the property and used to fight with him frequently.

On Tuesday, when Mr. Ramaiah was returning home from the land, the accused assaulted him and then poured petrol and set him on fire, the police said, adding that they also also beat up his son when he came to rescue the father.

Meanwhile, passers-by took Mr. Ramaiah to a nearby hospital, from where he was shifted to Victoria Hospital. The Hosahalli police have taken up a case and detained six persons.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K NISSHA, R/a No.61, 62, 63, Uday, Govindappa Rd, Nr Lalbagh West Gate, B.gudi, B'lore-04 have changed my name to Nisha Jain, vide affidavit dt: 06.05.2022 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'lore.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, BASAVA BHAWAN, BANGALORE - 560 001
Complaint No. 341/2018
Complainant : 1. Mr. Chandan Chandagla Thammanna, R/at # 208, Patel Chinnappa's Garudadari Abode, 1st Main, Dwaraka Nagara, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 085.
Opposite Parties : 1. Manjushree Roller Floor Mills, No. 7th Mile, Mysore Road, Pantarpalya, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru-560039. Rep. by its Partners. 1. Srinandan Singhal, 2. Ms. Kusum Singhal, 3.Mr.Shivani Singhal, 4.Mr.Deepak Kumar.
2. Manmohan Roller Floor Mills, No. 7th Mile, Mysore Road, Pantarpalya, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru-560039. Rep. by its Partners. 1. Srinandan Singhal, 2. Ms. Kusum Singhal, 3. Mr. Manish Singhal, 4.Mr.Deepak Kumar.
To,
1. Manjushree Roller Floor Mills, No. 7th Mile, Mysore Road, Pantarpalya, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru-560039. Rep. by its Partners. 1. Srinandan Singhal, 2. Ms. Kusum Singhal, 3. Mr. Shivani Singhal, 4.Mr.Deepak Kumar.
2. Manmohan Roller Floor Mills, No. 7th Mile, Mysore Road, Pantarpalya, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru-560039. Rep. by its Partners. 1. Srinandan Singhal, 2. Ms. Kusum Singhal, 3. Mr. Manish Singhal, 4.Mr.Deepak Kumar.
NOTICE TO THE OPPOSITE PARTIES 01 & 02 FOR HEARING OF COMPLAINT IN ENGLISH DAILY NEWS PAPER "THE HINDU"
Whereas the complainant has filed the complaint against Opposite Parties 01 & 02 under section 17 of the Consumer Protection Act claiming reliefs. You are herein notified to appear before this Hon'ble Commission in person or through a pleader or persons authorized as per law to answer all the material question of facts and law relating to the Complaint on 21st day of June, Two Thousand Twenty Two (21/06/2022) at 11.00 a.m.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above complaint will be heard and determined in your absence as per law.
Given under my hand and seal of this Commission on this 20th day of April Two Thousand and Twenty Two (20/04/2022)
By order of the Commission,
Asst. Registrar Cum Asst. Admn. Officer,
K.S.C.D.R.C. Bangalore - 560 001.
Advocate for Complainant

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I MARYKUTTY Joseph W/o of JC-647077 Ex Sub Maj John Mathew, Family Pensioner Arty PPO No.S1000121/87 residing at Thundieth Rose Bhavan, Kizhakkupuram Post, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala changing my name as P.Marykutty Joseph as per my Adhaar card (No.556369712820) and also vide affidavit no.0054 Dated 14th March 2022 at Pathanamthitta in this regard and henceforth my name to be changed as Marykutty Joseph to P.Marykutty Joseph in Artillery records also to correct the name difference.

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
Materials Management Division
e-PROCUREMENT – Tender is invited vide Tender No.MEE/KA/T/e-05 /22//MM for the Supply of 4 items of XLPE UG CABLE conf. IS 7098/Part I. For further details/ corrigendum, if any Visit our website
www.chennaiport.gov.in
www.eprocure.gov.in
Chief Mechanical Engineer

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby notified that, my client Smt.Swetha Lakshmi is intend to purchase the Schedule Properties from its owners Sri.Suresh & others and Sri. Sunil Stephen Pinto & others (Confirming Parties). Any Person/s objecting for sale or having any right in the Schedule Properties may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 7 days from the date of this publication, objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my Client and my Client will proceed to purchase Schedule Properties as if there are no claims/objections.
SCHEDULE PROPERTIES
land bearing No. 69/1 measuring an extent of 1 acre 10 guntas & land bearing No. 69/2 measuring an extents of 3 acres 07 guntas Situated at Ullappanahalli village, Ambajidurga Hobli, Chintamani Taluk both the lands are adjacent to each other commonly bounded by east; Devara Inamthi, west by; Land of Muniyappa, North by; Kere Angala, South by; land of Thoti Beemappa.
Mr.S.K.Nagaraja, Advocate,
Opp KSRTC Bus stand, Ramanna Building, Sidlaghatta, Chikkaballapur dist.
Phone: 9343539224

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
NOTICE FOR EOI
Dy. Chief Design Engineer/Engine, BLW, Varanasi acting for and on behalf of President of India, invites EOI for the following work:- S.N.:- 1, EOI No.:- --, Name of work :- Upgradation of BLW manufactured Diesel Engines to make it suitable for Marine Application as per Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) conditions.. Approximate cost Rs. :- --, Completion period:- --, EOI Cost Rs.:- --, Earnest Money Rs.:- --, Closing date & time:- 20.06.2022 till 15.00 hrs., EOI opening date and time:- 20.06.2022 at 15.30 hrs. For details and to participate e-tender please visit Indian railways website www.ireps.gov.in.
PRO/BLW/M-03 Dy. Chief Design Engineer / Engine
/banaraslocowork "Website : http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify the General Public that my client, Sri. Chikkanna Chikkavaradaiah S/o. Late Kenchaiah has lost the Original Mother Deed with Doc No. 1496/1974-75 with respect to Scheduled Property Site No.11, Gavipuram Village, Bangalore measuring 30 Ft x 30 Ft & the said document is not traceable, if found return to the undersigned and will be rewarded.
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY
All that piece & parcel of Site bearing No.11, Assessment No 205, Gavipuram Village, Bengalore measuring 30 Ft x 30 Ft bounded on:
East by: Property No. 3
West by: 20 Feet Road
North by: Site No. 12
South by: Nanjundappa's Property
A. Jaya Prakash, Advocate
No.7, 1st Flr, Burgal Mutt Cross Rd Off Diagonal Rd, Near Minerva Circle, V.V.Puram, B'lore-04
Ph: 98452-71157/ 98451-31939
Place: Bengaluru Date: 12-05-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is issued on behalf of My client Mr.Basavaraj Siddappa Khavasi S/o Siddappa Khavasi to bring the notice of the general public that the original GPA executed by Mr.B.S.Khavasi S/o S.R.Khavasi in favour of Sri.M.S.Chincha Khandi is missing / lost/ misplaced.
If any persons, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within 7 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of portion of residential Site bearing No.168, earlier Byatarayanapura CMC Katha No.48/13-168 of "PENN FIELD GARDENS", situated at Srirampura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30feet, total measuring 1200 Sq.feet, and bounded by:
East by : Road.
West by : Site No.199.
North by : Site No.167.
South by : Site No.169.
H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my client Smt. T.V. Mani W/o Patibanda Venkata Sita Rama Rao, R/at No. 1-3-49/87, plot No. 17, Anand Rao Nagar, old Ajwal, lane opposite to Z.P.H School, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana-500010, intents to purchase the schedule situated at Lakshmipura Village, Paiya Hobli, Kollegala Taluk, Kollegala Sa. Di., Chamarajanagara Ri, Di, from Sri. Manjunath .N S/o Late Nanjundappa, No. 272, Bannerughatta Janatha Colony, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District -560083 (OWNER) who has represented that he is sole and absolute owner and in possession of the schedule property more fully described herein below and having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. Public are notified that any person having any right, title, claim or interest in the schedule property or to the above transaction are hereby called upon to file their objections to the undersigned with supporting documents within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this notice, if no such claim is received, it would be deemed that no person, excepting the said owner, has any right over the schedule property and claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the Agriculture Dry land bearing Survey No. 253/1, measuring Acre 2-35 cent (Two Acre Thirty five Cent) situated at Lakshmipura Village, Paiya Hobli, Kollegala Taluk, Kollegala Sa. Di. Chamarajanagara Ri.Di bounded on East by: Bolamallu's land and Puttathayamma's land, West by: forest department, North by: Oni, South by: Siddaraju's land.
Sri. M.S. BASAVARAJU, Advocate
No. 2906/A, 1st Floor, 12th Cross, Mangalavarapete, Channapatna Town, Ramanagara District-562 160.
Mobile No 9845330047

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No. OHE/CN/DyCEE/22-23/01/176 Date: 09.05.2022
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ OHE, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.
"Provision of Galvanized Traction bonds and associated works in the section between Salem and Omalur in connection with the doubling of tracks between Salem and Mettur dam in Salem division of Southern Railway."
Tender Value: ₹ 76,46,462/-
Tender Closing date and Time: 31.05.2022 at 11.00 Hrs
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Phone No. 080-22265383, website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-01/1969/2022-23 Date: 11.05.2022
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)
KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for the following work of (1). Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the formation of new industrial areas including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan Design, Preparation of Cost Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed ITIR/ITIR Approach Road, Bengaluru Rural District. (2). Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the formation of new industrial areas including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan Design, Preparation of Cost Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Vemgal 2nd Phase, Kolar District. (3). Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the formation of new industrial areas including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan Design, Preparation of Cost Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Gowribidnur 2nd Phase, Chikkaballapur District. (4). Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the formation of new industrial areas including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan Design, Preparation of Cost Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Sira 2nd Phase (Mudugerekaval), Tumakuru District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : 24.05.2022 upto 04:00 pm
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
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THE HINDU
Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Retaining the GST

18 The percentage of the goods and services tax (GST) requested to be retained by the online skill-based gaming industry instead of the 28% rate category (the highest category) it was assigned earlier, saying that the move will badly hit the $2.2 billion sector. The increase in taxation would not only have a catastrophic impact on the industry but also encourage offshore operators who would circumvent Indian tax jurisdiction by hosting games in some other country, according to Games24x7 Co-CEO Trivikraman Thampy. PTI

Lack of toilet usage

19 The percentage of households in India that do not use any toilet facility according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS). Even though India was declared open defecation free in 2019, the NFHS-5 survey conducted in 2019-21 showed that despite a decrease in open defecation from 39% in 2015-2016, the problem still persists in the country. Access to a toilet facility is lowest in Bihar (62%), followed by Jharkhand (70%) and Odisha (71%). According to the report, 69.3% of households have access to improved toilet facilities. PTI

Menstrual cloth

50 The percentage of women aged 15 to 24 still using cloth for menstrual protection, according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) report, with experts attributing it to a lack of awareness and taboo existing around menstruation. According to the report, 64% of women said that they used sanitary napkins, 15% said they used locally prepared napkins while the rest said that they used cloth for menstrual protection. The reuse of unclean cloth increases exposure to multiple local infections. PTI

Aid for Ukraine

40 In $ billion, the amount approved by the House of Congress at U.S. Parliament for the aid of Ukraine on Tuesday, signalling a magnified, bipartisan commitment to thwart Russian President Vladimir Putin's bloody three-month-old invasion. The bill would give Ukraine military and economic assistance, help regional allies, replenish weapons the Pentagon has shipped overseas and provide $5 billion to address global food shortages caused by the war's crippling of Ukraine's normally robust production of many crops. AP

Averting an oil spill

144 In $ million, the amount the United Nations is seeking to fund in order to salvage a decaying tanker full of oil moored off the coast of Yemen. The ship's demise could cause an environmental disaster, the organisation informed on Wednesday. The amount includes the $80 million needed to transfer more than one million barrels of crude oil the FSO (floating storage and offloading unit) SAFER is carrying in storage, according to David Gressly, the U.N. resident and humanitarian coordinator for Yemen. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

So little time: Men row a boat in the polluted waters of the Yamuna river covered with foam in New Delhi on November 19, 2020 • AFP

KEYWORD

Shallow and deep ecologism

All forms of environmentalism will not lead to effective climate change

THE GIST

- The fashionable fight against pollution and resource depletion is shallow ecologism. Exponents of this philosophy believe in continuing our present lifestyle, but with specific tweaks aimed at minimising the damage to the environment.
- Deep ecologism believes that humans should radically change their relationship with nature. Its proponents reject shallow ecologism for prioritising humans above other forms of life, and subsequently preserving the environmentally destructive way of life in modern societies.
- A narrow focus on pollution and conservation movements is counterproductive. A holistic perspective to environmental crisis is one which acknowledges regional differences and the disparities between under and over-developed nations.

RANJANI SRINIVASAN

Heat waves are known to have been a reality for hundreds of years. But the long-term effects of climate change have exacerbated them, making the waves more extreme, frequent and prolonged. As India continues to grapple with the unrelenting waves, it becomes pertinent to unpack two strands of environmental philosophy that reinvent the relationship between nature and humans – shallow and deep ecologism.

Two styles of ecologism

The concepts emerged in the 1970s, when Norwegian philosopher Arne Næss sought to look beyond the popular pollution and conservation movements of his milieu to address environmental degradation. In his study of ecological concerns, Næss is more preoccupied with the role of the individual in nature. He believes that owing to increased anthropocentrism, humans have cut themselves off from nature, viewing nature and themselves as competing entities and establishing a master-slave dynamic.

By placing humans at the heart of the environmental crisis, Næss outlines the difference between the two styles of ecologism. He terms the powerful and fashionable fight against pollution and resource depletion as shallow ecologism or environmentalism. Exponents of this philosophy believe in continuing our present lifestyle, but with specific tweaks aimed at minimising the damage to the environment. Also referred to as weak ecologism, it may include the use of vehicles that cause less pollution or air conditioners that do not release chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). This branch of ecologism primarily serves to maintain the lifestyle of those dwelling in developed countries.

On the other hand, deep ecologism believes that humans should radically change their relationship with nature. Its proponents reject shallow ecologism for prioritising humans above other forms of life, and subsequently preserving the environmentally destructive way of life in modern societies. Deep ecologism maintains that by sustaining this lifestyle, shallow ecologism further widens the inequalities between countries. For instance, despite constituting only five per cent of the world's population, the U.S. accounts for 17% of the world's energy consumption and is the second largest consumer of electricity after China. Similarly, while low and middle-income countries have recorded lower cumulative and per capita carbon dioxide emissions over the past two centuries, it is the wealthier countries which are most responsible for a majority of carbon emissions.

Objectives of deep ecologism

Deep ecologism aspires to sustain nature by making large-scale changes to our lifestyle. These may include limiting the commercial farming of meat to preserve forest areas and reduce the artificial fattening of animals, or the reshaping of transport systems which involve the use of internal combustion engines.

The responsibility of solving the climate crisis falls on policy-makers as much as it does on scientists and ecologists.

However, besides advocating these lifestyle changes, deep ecologism shifts the attention from pollution and conservation narratives to robust policy formulation and implementation. According to Næss, policy-making must be aided by the reorientation of technical skills and inventions in new directions that are ecologically responsible. In fact, Næss recommends that ecologists reject work that is supervised by authorities with limited ecological perspectives. As irreplaceable informants, ecologists should not submit to power which does not recognise critical ecological priorities.

Additionally, to recognise the complex richness of different lifeforms, deep ecologism calls for a re-evaluation of the 'survival of the fittest' doctrine. Survival of the fittest should be understood through the human ability to cooperate and coexist with nature, as opposed to exploiting or dominating it. Deep ecologism thus prioritises a 'live and let live' attitude over an 'either you or me' approach.

The political potential of ecologism

Both strands of ecologism draw from different frameworks, including socialism, anarchism, feminism, conservatism and sometimes even fascism. Deep ecologism in particular borrows from socialism. In his writings on deep ecologism, Næss argues that a narrow focus on pollution and conservation movements is counterproductive. He believes that when projects are only implemented to solve pollution, it generates evils of a different kind. For instance, the installation of pollution control devices may increase the cost of living, leading to an increase in class difference. An ethically responsible ecologism is one which operates in the interest of all economic classes.

The environment may also become more vulnerable when decisions are strongly influenced by majority rule, without taking local interests into consideration. According to Næss, a solution to this can be found in decentralising the decision-making process and strengthening local autonomy. Næss claims that a chain consisting of a local board, a municipal council, a state-wide institution, a national government institution, a coalition of nations, and a global institution can be reduced to one made up of a local board, a nation-wide institution, and a global institution. A lengthy decision-making chain is unfavourable as it is prone to excluding local interests.

In all, Næss cautions humans against adopting a 'vague, global' approach to the environmental crisis.

A holistic perspective to the crisis is one which acknowledges regional differences and the disparities between under and over-developed nations.

Næss stresses that the political potential of the movement be realised, and that those in positions of power be held accountable. The responsibility of solving the climate crisis falls on policy-makers as much as it does on scientists and ecologists.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning. How is your cycle now?"

"It is in a good condition sir."

"I am glad it is in good condition. When the word 'condition' is preceded by words like good, bad, poor, it does not take 'a'.

The cycle is in poor condition.
His house is in bad condition.
His health is in excellent condition.

However, when you use the word 'state', 'a' is used.

His car is in an excellent state.
His house is in a poor state.

'Condition' does take 'a' when it is not preceded by good, bad and similar words.

I am not in a condition to walk.
I am not in a condition to help you.

I hope you understand."

"Yes sir. Sir, you said you'd say something more about jargon."

"Oh yes. As I told you, jargon is elaborate, pretentious language. Its characteristics are abstractness, vagueness, pomposity and wordiness. Language is for communication. You must express yourself in simple, clear language.

For example, jargonauts or jargoneers as they are humorously called write 'Illumination is required to be extinguished.' What is meant is 'you must put out the lights.' 'Please cause an investigation to be made with a view to ascertaining the truth.' What this means is 'please find out.' Some people think jargon is very impressive without realising that it is used to 'cover nakedness of thought.'

What is simple is made to sound impressive.

This is cheating. Look at this sentence: 'In traditional linguistics it has been assumed that the analysis of sentences can be performed upon examples isolated from the process of interaction within which they naturally emerge'. You have to read this sentence several times to understand what it means. The sentence simply means that in traditional linguistics it was thought that sentences could be analysed in isolation leaving aside the context in which they occurred. 'The process of interaction within which they naturally emerge' – this part makes for difficult reading. What is sought to be conveyed is simple. But the language used to convey it is not simple. It is unclear and verbose. Look at this from *Thank you, Jeeves* by P. G. Wodehouse:

"I can conceive that after what occurred in New York it might be distressing for you to encounter Miss Stoker, sir. But I fancy the contingency need scarcely arise'.

I weighed this.

'When you start talking about contingencies arising, Jeeves, the brain seems to flicker and I rather miss the gist. Do you mean that I ought to be able to keep out of her way?'

"Yes, sir."

The brain 'flickers' when we come across jargon. You must be tired of jargon now. We'll discuss it next week. You may go now. Have a nice week-end. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

In a major decision, the Supreme Court has frozen the British-era sedition law till it is re-examined. Here's a quiz on prominent personalities related to the sedition law

1 The first recorded trial under Section 124A of the sedition law in India was against a newspaper editor who had opposed the British government's decision to change the age of consent from 10 to 12. Name the editor and the newspaper.

2 "It is my duty to judge you as a man subject to the law, who has by his own admission broken the law and committed what to an ordinary man must appear to be grave offences against the State." These were the words used by Justice R.S. Broomfield before sentencing which person who was standing trial for sedition exactly 100 years ago?

3 When Bal Gangadhar Tilak was sentenced for sedition after publishing an article in his newspaper *Kesari* defending the actions of Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki in Muzaffarnagar, who was acting as his lawyer in the case?

4 The judge who passed the verdict sentencing Lokmanya Tilak to imprisonment in 1908 also happened to be the lawyer arguing Tilak's case in a similar trial in 1897. Name him.

5 A participant in the freedom movement, this person was once part of the Forward Bloc and later joined the "Forward Communist Party". He was arrested and later tried for sedition in 1962 in a case where the Supreme Court, while upholding the law (and convicting him), defined the scope for its use. Name him.

This member of the Constituent Assembly and later a founder of the Vishva Hindu Parishad was one of the most vehement speakers against sedition during the Constituent Assembly deliberations that resulted in the omission of the word from the Constitution. Name him. • WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the daily quiz: 1. A Lok Sabha MP, this person prepared the original plan for the Damodar Valley Project. **Ans: Meghnad Saha**
2. The number 1729 is named after these two mathematicians. **Ans: Srinivasa Ramanujan, G. H. Hardy**
3. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis is best known for introducing this statistical measure in 1936. **Ans: Mahalanobis distance**
4. The location of the Indian Astronomical Observatory. **Ans: Hanle, Ladakh**
5. This is a national-level research institute for genomic medicine in India. **Ans: The National Institute of Biomedical Genomics**
6. The first supercomputer in the PARAM series. **Ans: PARAM 8000**
Visual: The place is the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre**

Early Birds: Shweta Mall| Abhishek Anurag| Anusha Ale Sajil| Anand Coilpillai

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 12
RISE 05:55 SET 18:37
RISE 15:10 SET 02:55

FRIDAY, MAY. 13
RISE 05:55 SET 18:37
RISE 16:02 SET 03:34

SATURDAY, MAY. 14
RISE 05:55 SET 18:37
RISE 16:57 SET 04:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	24
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	26	21

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of rain and thundershower with gusty winds are likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail.Night will be pleasant. One or two spells of rain and thundershower to occur.

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Karnataka among States with most number of sedition cases

State registered 53 cases in 11 years from 2010 — fifth highest in the country; those charged under the law welcome Supreme Court order

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU

The Supreme Court order pausing the sedition law on Wednesday is like "light at the end of the tunnel," said Maridevaiah S., president of Karnataka State Research Scholars' Association. He was booked for sedition in 2020 for holding a "Free Kashmir" placard at a rally against the Anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, in Mysuru.

A file photo of members of the All India Students' Association staging a protest condemning the arrest of climate activist Disha Ravi.

"The Mysore Bar Association resolved not to represent me. I did not even find lawyers. It is a colonial law that should have been off the statute books long ago, but was misused to muzzle voices of dissent. We hope the draconian law is not just paused, but struck down," Mr. Maridevaiah said.

Many like him, charged with sedition and who have gone through the ordeal of jail and the Herculean task of getting a bail, are a relieved lot. As per the National Crime Records Bureau report, Karnataka registered the highest number of sedition cases in the country – 22 – in 2019.

Meanwhile, the sedition database put together by Article 14, a collective working on civil rights, said Karnataka registered 53 cases in 11 years, from 2010 to 2021, the fifth highest in the country, but convicted none. That has now gone up to 55. The Article 14 database also records that the State registered 20 sedition cases over social media posts.

Karnataka has seen sedition booked for "offences" such as a placard held, a slogan raised at a rally, a song sung by Kashmiri students in Hubballi, a play enacted by children at a school in Bidar, bursting crackers when India lost a match, for social media posts, and so on.

Former Chief Ministers have been booked for sedition for a protest in front of Income Tax office over alleged partiality of the department's action. A former Minister was booked for his statement that there would be unrest in the State if the NRC-CAA were implemented. Leading lawyers who have represented the accused persons in sedition cases have welcomed the Supreme Court decision.

Senior advocate B.T. Venkatesh said this was one of the best decisions of the SC in recent times. "There are over 13,000 pending cases with several people in prisons on flimsy grounds. The colonial law of sedition is in direct confrontation with freedom of expression enshrined in the Constitution. In any democracy with freedom of expression, there is no place for sedition and even criminal defamation. They have to go," he said.

Another senior advocate S. Balan hoped the law would be struck down soon. "I hope the SC next reviews Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, which is as draconian as sedition and misused to target minorities, Dalits, Adivasis. UAPA is incompatible with the Constitution that guarantees basic rights to all," he said.

Detained

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A group of individuals who had organised a satyagraha, seeking to petition Kannada TV channels for moderation and to desist from hate mongering, were detained by the city police and later released on Wednesday. M. Yuvaraj, one of the organisers of the satyagraha, said Kannada television media had been playing a major role in fanning communal discord.

"We just wanted to give them a rose and submit a petition asking them to introspect on their role. But when we were going to do this, the police detained us," he said.

THE HINDU
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Lapses in probe into killing of Dalit youths flagged

Fact-finding team seeks change of IO

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A fact-finding report on the killings of two Dalit youths in Peedanahalli, Tumakuru district, on April 21, states that the two youths were lynched by several villagers. The report also alleges several lapses in the investigation and demands a change of the Investigating Officer (IO).

The fact-finding committee was led by multiple Dalit organisations, Alternate Law Forum (ALF) and People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL).

"The deceased Girish P. M. of Peddanahalli village was a Dalit leader questioning the upper caste persons in the village and was involved in certain fights, which is why he seems to be targeted. An upper caste boy came to his house and took him out under the garb of visiting a nearby temple fair, only to be beaten up by a mob who accused him of stealing borewell starters in the village, which is unfounded. His friend Manchaladore Girish was also targeted with him. Several villagers have participated in the lynching," alleged Dr. K. B. Obalesh of Safai Karamchari Kavalu Samiti, who led the fact-finding committee.

The fact-finding report finds several lapses and partisanship in the investigation that has seen over 30 arrests so far.

"The inquest proceedings of the two bodies itself was not transparent. There have been several lapses, from non-recording of body injuries to non-recovery of key evidence from the scene of crime. Family members were asked to sign on empty sheets for the inquest. Copies of the FIR and post-mortem reports have not been provided to them," the report alleges. The FIR does not book the accused under relevant sections of the SC-ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, giving leeway to the accused.

A Dalit man, who witnessed the lynching, called up P. M. Girish's brother Sridhar around 1.45 am the same night, and informed him of the ongoing attack. By the time Sridhar could reach the spot, the two bodies were discovered.

"Police have arrested the caller as an accused, but have refused to record his statement. They have not recorded the statement of the deceased's brother Sridhar, blocking key witness statements," the report states. "The present IO in the case belongs to the same caste as that of the accused in the case. So, he should be immediately changed," the committee has demanded.

They have also demanded protection for the families of the deceased.

Setting up of panel stayed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the constitution of a joint legislature committee, set up by the Secretariat of the Legislative Council, to examine the issue of grant of permissions to start nursing colleges prior to 2021.

A vacation Bench passed the interim order on a petition filed by the Karnataka State Association of the Managements of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Institutions.

The petitioner has questioned the legality of setting up of the committee following a debate in the Council last year on the issues of alleged lapses in granting permission for 62 new nursing colleges and 40 new allied sciences institutions. It has been contended in the petition that the power of inspection and grant of recognition is governed by Indian Nursing Council Act and the legislature panel lacks power to examine this issue.

'Don't accept IPS officer's resignation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after senior IPS officer Ravindranath resigned in protest against his transfer, a delegation of legislators, who are part of the committee on Scheduled Castes, led by M.P. Kumaraswamy met Chief Secretary P. Ravikumar and urged him not to accept the resignation.

Legislators, including N. Mahesh and P. Rajeev, were part of the delegation. Mr. Kumaraswamy said that Dr. Ravindranath had issued notices to those accused of getting employment based on false caste certificates after the matter had been discussed in the committee.

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy urged the Government not to accept the resignation.

He accused the Government of transferring him after he started probing officials who have submitted false caste certificate. He alleged that former police official Kempaiah had given a fake certificate, but held strategic posts.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar told presspersons here that the transfer of Dr. Ravindranath shows that the BJP Government is anti-Dalit.

"CM's Political Secretary M.P. Renukacharya and Minister Prabhu Chavan were issued notices for providing fake caste certificates. There are rumours that the IPS officer was under pressure not to act. The Government should immediately cancel the transfer and drop Mr. Renukacharya and Mr. Chavan."

He said that so far 1,097 cases of false certificates have been registered in the State, including 111 tahsildars, 111 village accountants and 108 revenue inspectors. In another 590 cases, it has been proved that officials have taken false certificates.

Alert over 'tomato flu'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Alert has been sounded in districts abutting Kerala over 'tomato flu' outbreak in the neighbouring State.

Tomato flu is a viral disease, which causes red rashes, skin irritation, and dehydration. The fever is affecting children below the age of five in Kerala. Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, and Mysuru have been directed to keep a vigil. Health Minister K. Sudhakar, however, clarified that there is no need to panic. "Tomato flu has nothing to do with COVID-19. Moreover, it is endemic to Kerala," he said.

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MEKHRI CIRCLE, BANGALORE-560006

INAUGURATION BY:
SRI BASAVARAJ S.BOMMAI, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA

OPENING OF EXHIBITION CUM SALE:
SRI GOVINDA.M.KARAJOLA
HON'BLE MINISTER FOR LARGE & MEDIUM IRRIGATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA

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HON'BLE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE & BACKWARD CLASS WELFARE, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA

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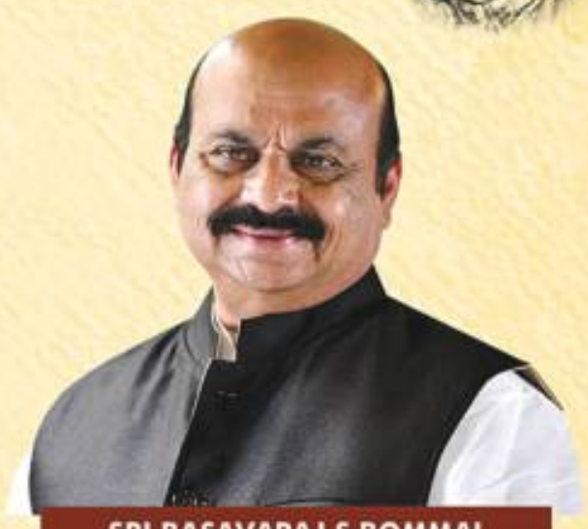
Sri Kota Srinivasa Poojary, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare & Backward Class Welfare in a programme has released newly designed Lidkar products to the market. Sri P.C. Mohan, MP and Prof. N.Linganna, Chairman, Lidkar were Present.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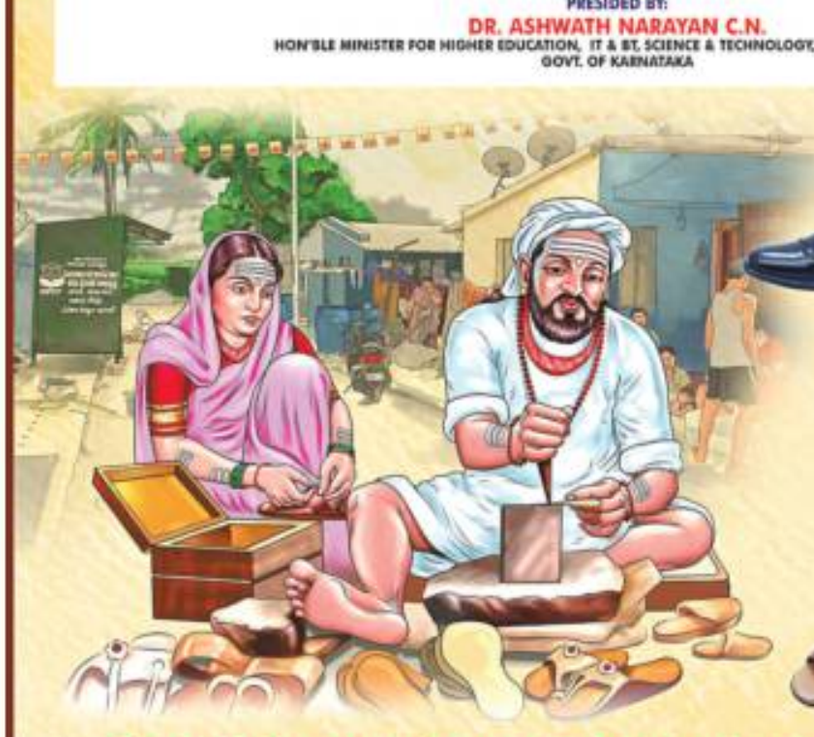

EXHIBITION CUM SALE

DATE: 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 MAY 2022
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TIME: 10.30 AM to 8.00 PM

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BJP inches closer to majority in Council with polls coming up

Currently, with 37 members, it is one short of a majority in the 75-member House

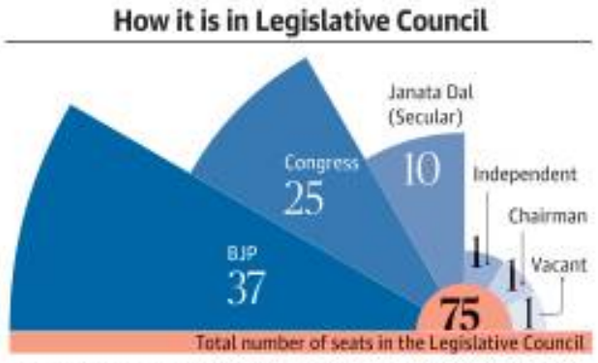
SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU

Having come close to getting a simple majority in the Karnataka Legislative Council in the elections held to 25 seats from the local authorities in December last year, the BJP has more chances in the coming weeks to secure majority for the first time in the Upper House.

While elections to seven seats to be elected from the Legislative Assembly was declared by the Election Commission on Tuesday as the members are retiring upon completing their term, elections to four more seats where members are set to retire are round the corner. Election will also be announced shortly for one vacant seat.

Elections to four graduates' and teachers' constituencies are scheduled to be announced by the Election Commission shortly as the members are retiring on July 4. Of the eight members elected from the Assembly, seven members are completing their term on June 14 and the term of one seat that has fallen vacant due to the resignation of C.M. Ibrahim will be till June 17, 2024. Among those who are retiring on July 4 is Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, who has been elected on JD (S) ticket but will be contesting from BJP this time.

A file photo of the Legislative Council.



Currently, with 37 members, the BJP is one short of a simple majority in the 75-member Upper House. Of the 11 retiring members, four each are from BJP and JD(S) and three are from Congress, and the ruling BJP has to ensure victory in five of the 12 seats to wrest control in the Upper House.

"As per the election formula to be applied for electing members from the Legislative Assembly, the BJP with 121 members (including the Speaker) is sure of winning four seats as 29 votes are required to win a seat. The BJP will also win the seat that has fallen vacant due to resignation when a separate election notification is done," a Secretariat source said.

A senior BJP MLC said: "Of the four graduates' and teachers' constituencies going to polls, the BJP has an edge in three, which will give us a comfortable majority. We might end up with 41 seats in the Council."

Intense lobbying

Meanwhile, lobbying has begun in parties ahead of the polls for eight seats from the Assembly. While Congress sources said that at least eight party leaders, including some sitting members, are lobbying for the party nomination, decision to nominate will be taken after the election schedule is announced. The Congress with 69 members in the Assembly can win two seats where as it is holding three seats currently, and it had also held the vacated seat in the Council.

In BJP, the senior leader said that though nearly a dozen leaders are vying for nominations, it could be surprise selection by the high command. The JD(S), which has two seats currently, can win one seat, and party sources said that two leaders are trying for nominations.

Pro tem Chairman to be appointed after Basavaraj Horatti's resignation

This is because the post of Deputy Chairman is also vacant

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU

With Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti set to resign from his post to contest on BJP ticket in the Karnataka West Teachers' constituency polls, a pro tem Chairman will be appointed.

Sources said the appointment of the pro tem Chairman will be necessitated since the post of Deputy Chairman has also been lying vacant. M.K. Pranesh, who was Deputy Chairman before he was reelected to the House in December 2021, was expected to be renominated for the post by the party, but it has not happened so far.

Record term

Mr. Horatti will be seeking a record eighth consecutive term this election, and has been assured by the BJP that he will become the chairman once re-elected.

Basavaraj Horatti

A secretariat source said: "In the absence of the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Minister has to send a proposal nominating a MLC to the Governor to be appointed as the pro tem chairman. Though seniority is normally considered, it is the prerogative of the Chief Minister to nominate the pro tem chairman." The appointment is necessary since the chairman post is a constitutional post that cannot be lying vacant."

Proceedings

Currently, the panel of chairman, who officiate the house proceedings in the absence of the chairman, has BJP MLCs Tejaswini Gowda and Bharathi Shetty, K.T. Srikante Gowda of JD(S), and Veena Achaiah of Congress. Both Mr. Gowda and Ms. Achaiah are retiring, leaving only the BJP MLCs on the panel. Meanwhile, BJP sources said that besides Mr. Pranesh, senior member Ayanur Manjunath and Sashil Namoshi are lobbying for the Deputy Chairman post.

'KSE will be served notice if needed'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The police, who are probing the death of contractor Santosh Patil, will issue notice to former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa if needed, said Home Minister Araga Jnanendra on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters here, he said there is no question of protecting anyone in the case. "The police are conducting a free and fair investigation. We will not interfere in it. The police will issue notice to whoever is connected to the case," he said. Mr. Jnanendra said the probe is being led by the Udupi Superintendent of Police.

Regarding the investigation into the alleged scam in recruitment of police sub-inspectors, the Home Minister said many have been arrested and many more will be arrested.

In election year, transfer window opens

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amid speculation over the proposed Cabinet expansion or a reshuffle, the opening of the general transfer window on Sunday in what is being seen as "election year transfers" has caused anxiety among many across departments.

The State Government on Saturday evening announced that the general transfer window will be open between May 1 and June 15, and departments have been asked to not exceed the number of transfers to more than 6% of the cadre strength. The general transfers will be applicable to all officials and employees in Group A, B, C, and D, and the Ministers of respective departments have been allowed to take the decision.

Multiple sources in the government said the transfers coming in the midst of speculation over the Cabinet has caused anxiety.

"In many cases, officials are not sure about the continuity of their Ministers as the speculation has gained ground due to the visit of Home Minister Amit Shah this week."

Another official acknowledged that the lobbying for transfers had begun at least a month before, and is more likely to continue beyond June 15 and beyond the 6% of the cadre strength since is the election year.

The official also said that though the general transfers had been effected in the last two years in the middle of COVID-19 pandemic, it had been limited. "Being the election year, pulls and pressure this time around would be bigger," the official added.

700 acres of defence land to be transferred to govt. CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has responded positively to the request by Karnataka to transfer 700 acres of grassland in Belagavi to the State Government to set up an IT Park, according to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

The Chief Minister, who met the Defence Minister in New Delhi on Wednesday, told reporters that the land was under the control of the Defence Ministry though it actually belonged to the State Government.

"The State Government intends to develop an IT Park in Belagavi. So we have requested the Defence Ministry to hand over the land. Mr. Singh has responded positively. He said he would discuss it with officials concerned and take a decision," Mr. Bommai said. The Defence Minister has been invited to inaugurate the Sangolli Rayanna Military School in Belagavi, he said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Wait for State Cabinet expansion to continue

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi in Wednesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The BJP high command sees the upcoming elections to the Upper House of the State legislature as an opportunity for the party to get a full majority in the 75-member Legislative Council which would help it bring in Bills related to its core ideology.

Such a mood of the party high command would suggest that the ministerial expansion may be put off indefinitely for now, sources in the BJP said, though Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai maintained that "anything can happen at anytime" on ministerial expansion.

He wound up his two-day visit to New Delhi on Wednesday after holding consultations with Union Home Minister and BJP key strategist Amit Shah on ministerial expansion as well as various political developments, including the possible impact of the apex court order on holding elections to local bodies. Mr. Bommai, who could not meet party national president J.P. Nadda, said Mr. Shah had indicated to him that a decision on ministerial expansion would be made by the party central leadership in two or three days.

He also made it clear that his consultations with Mr. Shah did not reach the level of discussing the names of probables for inclusion in the Cabinet.

CHC doctor offers lunch at ₹10 to patients

Venugopal, medical officer at Holalur CHC in Shivamogga taluk, started the service during the pandemic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

A government medical officer's offer of lunch to patients and their attendants at his Community Health Centre (CHC) for as low as ₹10 per plate has received much praise from the public.

Dr. K.L. Venugopal, administrative medical officer at Holalur CHC in Shivamogga taluk, with the support of his staff, has been offering lunch to visitors since November 2020. This gesture is unique because the doctor and his staff are managing this programme on their own sources without depending on the government. The CHC has total staff strength of 32, including five medical officers.

Dr. K.L. Venugopal with staff members at the Holalur Community Health Centre in Shivamogga taluk.

Dr. Venugopal, son of former legislator and noted socialist Konandur Lingappa, has been known for his service. His father was known for his struggle for landless agriculture workers and was elected to the Legislative Assembly by spending money contributed by his voters.

Following the principles his father adopted, Dr. Venugopal chose to serve only in rural areas since he got into the Health and Family Welfare Department after completing his graduation in Kalaburagi in 1998.

During COVID-19, many patients and attendants visited the health centre. "As lockdown was in effect, the visitors had no facility to have lunch. We decided to start this service. Our support staff also joined hands. Initially, I thought of offering lunch free of charge. But later we thought it would be better to collect minimal charge and fixed ₹10 per plate of rice, sambar, and pickle," he said.

The government hospitals set up in taluk and district centres offer food for in-patients. However, this facility is not available in primary health centres and community health centres.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare K. Sudhakar, who got to know about the initiative, tweeted: "Heartwarming to learn that Dr. Venugopal provides lunch for the needy at ₹10 every day. Change does indeed begin with us."

Dr. Venugopal said he was overwhelmed by the responses he received. "I really don't know if our job deserves so much appreciation. We are offering lunch to people who visit us," he said. The medical officer opined that many of the patients were villagers with a meagre income. They could hardly afford lunch in hotels. "In a month, we need to spend about ₹15,000 and we are managing that," he said. He said such a system was required in all hospitals across the State. "Even in villages, people have to spend up to ₹50 for lunch. I wish we had a system to fulfil the requirement of those who cannot afford it," he said.

NABARD GM takes charge

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

T. Ramesh took charge as Chief General Manager of NABARD on May 9. Prior to taking over the charge of Karnataka regional office, he was heading the Corporate Planning Department dealing with overall business budget of the bank, credit planning exercise, and fixation of agriculture credit target for banks.

KALYAN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION : KALABURAGI

NO. KKKTC/CO/ARF/14/2022-23 DATE : 09-05-2022

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION NO. 02/2022-23

KKRTC Passenger Accident Relief Fund, Kalaburgi invites E-tenders/Bidding through E-portal from 10-05-2022 the eligible reputed and recognized Public Sector Banks/Regional Rural Banks (RRB) and Private Sector Banks for the investment of surplus fund of KKRTC Accident Relief Fund in fixed deposit for **One** years. No individual Bank branches are allowed to participate in the E-auction. The details are as below :

Schedule of Various Events for E-auction is as below :

1) Date of E-Auction Notification : 10-05-2022, 2) Last Date to upload the Eligibility Criteria in Annexure-A and Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal. (only eligible will be allowed to take part in live bidding) : **25-05-2022 Upto 17.00 hours,** 3) Date of documents verification uploaded through E-portal: **26-05-2022,** 4) Date of Bidding : **30-05-2022. 11.00 am TO 31-05-2022. 15.00 hours.**

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the address mentioned below http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Further details can be obtain from Secretary Passenger Accident Relief Fund Trust, Kalaburagi Mo : 7760992000, 7760994475, 7892977171

Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager/Secretary, Passenger Accident Relief Fund Trust, KKRTC Central Office, Kalaburgi

DIP/Kalaburagi/130/MC&A/2022-23

Centre assures State of adequate supply of DAP, urea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said the Centre had assured him that the State did not have any shortage in supply of DAP and urea for the ensuing kharif season.

Mr. Bommai, who met Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi on Tuesday, told reporters that the Union Minister had given him the assurance.

"I have discussed the quantum of fertilizers needed for Karnataka for this kharif season. Earlier, there were apprehensions about proper supply of ammonia and other fertilizers as there is a shortage in the international market. However, the Union Minister has assured me that adequate quantum of DAP would be made available. Transport arrangements need to be made by the State once the fertilisers stock reaches Karwar and Mangaluru ports," he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

We are deeply aggrieved to inform you about the sad demise of our loving father

Shri. P.V. RAMANATHAN

He left for the heavenly abode on the 8th of May 2022 in Chennai, TN. There will be a 13th day ceremony on the 20th of May 2022 at our home in Valasaravakkam, Chennai, TN.

He will be deeply missed by everyone who has known him

Love and Prayers
Shanti and Rajesh

IN MEMORIAM

Smt Saroja Sukumaran, wife of late Shri R K Sukumaran, IPS (Retd) and our beloved mother left us this day in May 1971. Our memories of love and affection remain uncharged.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10th Anniversary

In Loving Memory of
Mrs. Thankamma Jacob
8.10.1938 - 12.05.2012

When we lose someone we love, we gain an angel we know.
We Miss you so much!
Fondly Remembered by
Family Members

HOMAGE

A Heartfelt Tribute
in memory of our beloved parents
Shri R Srinivasan & Smt. Indirani Srinivasan

Those we love don't go away, they walk unseen, unheard but always near.
You continue to remain alive in our hearts and memories.

WE MISS YOU SO MUCH
Rajesh, Gowri, Sreekumar, Prathiba, Sheetal and Shiv

REMEMBRANCE

PRS GROUP

On the 32nd year of remembrance of our visionary founder, P Ratnaswamy, we pledge to continue to work in the interest of the communities we serve.

Sri. P. RATNASWAMY (PRS)
(1920-1990)
Founder: PRS Group, Trivandrum

Family members & staff of: PRS BUILDERS | PRS HOSPITAL KALYAN HOSPITAL | SWAGATH HOLIDAY RESORT | KALYAN SCHOOL PRS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY PRS COLLEGE OF NURSING | PRS RETAIL

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
(Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION KALABURAGI-585105
Phone No: 08472-278634 Email:eerwssglb14@gmail.com

No:EE/RDW&S/Dvn/Tech/2021-22/160 Dated : 7-5-2022

E-PROCURMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two cover)

The Executive Engineer Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, Kalaburagi on behalf of Honorable Governor, Karnataka here by invites separate Technical & Financial bid tender for drinking water works from eligible civil contractor detailed as below

The Tender Document with detailed condtions can be obtained through web site **http://eporc.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through E-procurment system only

1) Name of work: **Chincholi-04(Indent No 34357, 34356, 34359, 34358),** 2) Head of A/C : **JJM 2021-22,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class-II & above, 4) Tender Amount: **Min 54,11,725/-, Max 84,71,000/-,** 5) Date of Commencement of downloading of Bidding document: **07-05-2022 11:00am,** 6) Cost of tender form and EMD: As per E-portal, 7) Last Date to submit bids on e-portal: **18-05-2022 4.00pm,** 8) Opening of Techincal Bid: **19-05-2022 4.01pm,** 9) Opening of Financial Bid : **21-05-2022 11:00am,** 10) Address forany clarification reg.tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, PRE division 1st floor Kusanoor road Kalaburagi

Sd/- Executive Engineer RDW&S Division, Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/127/MC&A/2022-23

IN BRIEF

Railways cancel 46 trains due to cyclone Asani

VIJAYAWADA

The South Central Railway (SCR) has cancelled 46 trains and rescheduled and diverted a few other trains in wake of Cyclone Asani. Demu trains running between Vijayawada-Narsapur, Machilipatnam-Gudivada, Narsapur-Guntur Express, Kakinada Port-Vijayawada, Nidadavole-Narsapur, Bhimavaram Junction-Vijayawada, Bhimavaram Junction-Machilipatnam were cancelled on Wednesday. Visakhapatnam-LTT Mumbai, Kakinada Port-LTT Mumbai, CST Mumbai-Nagercoil and some other trains, scheduled on Thursday were diverted, the SCR officials said.

NRI arrested for stalking woman trainee IPS officer

HYDERABAD

The Jubilee Hills police on Wednesday informed that it has arrested one Malraj Singh, an NRI hailing from Punjab, on charges of stalking a woman trainee Indian Police Service officer. Police said the accused, a green card holder in California, contacted the officer first on a social media site while he was in Punjab. Knowing that she was training at a Telangana institute, he followed her to Hyderabad.

Bank of Baroda cashier decamps with ₹22 lakh

HYDERABAD

A cashier with Bank of Baroda branch at Vanasthalipuram in Hyderabad has decamped with about ₹22 lakh, police reported on Wednesday. The incident was reported to police by the bank authorities on Tuesday soon after they realised the cash was missing and the clerk remained out of the contact network. The accused was identified as Praveen Kumar of Hyderabad.

Protest against 'Hindi imposition' in Jipmer

PUDUCHERRY

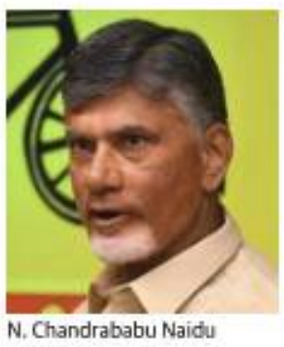
Pattali Makkal Katchi cadre staged a demonstration in front of the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (Jipmer) here on Wednesday, demanding the administration to rescind the circular that insisted entries in all registers/ service books be made "as far as possible, only in Hindi".

A.P. Capital master plan: Naidu, ex-Minister booked for graft

CID accuses them of showing favouritism and causing loss to the exchequer

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

The A.P. CID has charged former Chief Minister and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu, former Minister P. Narayana, and several with committing irregularities and showing favouritism in selecting individuals while designing the Capital master plan, Inner Ring Road (IRR), and the arterial roads.



N. Chandrababu Naidu

Based on a complaint lodged by Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy on April 27, the CID booked cases under IPC Sections 120 (B), 420, 34. 35. 36, 37, 166, 167 and 217, and Section 13 (2), R/W 13 (1) of the ACB Act.

Mr. Ramakrishna Reddy, in his complaint, alleged that Mr. Naidu, in his capacity as Chief Minister then, and others had indulged in corruption while designing the master plan of the Capital region and acted in a manner causing huge losses to the State exchequer.

The CID Special Investigation Team probing the alleged irregularities had come up with several findings that point the finger of blame at politicians, bureaucrats and private individuals.

Soon after the TDP formed the government in June 2014, the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) was designated as the nodal authority empowered to frame the master plan.

Mr. Naidu was its ex-officio Chairman. Mr. Narayana, then Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, was its ex-officio Vice-Chairman.

Initially, an area spanning over 122 sq. km was notified as the capital area in December 2014. The area for the capital city was modified to 217 sq. km in June 2015. The Singapore government had prepared a detailed master plan for the capital city covering 391 sq. km.

"The extent of the capital city decided whether the area fell under the land pooling zone or was located along the boundary of the land pooling zone, or was far away from the capital city area. This has a significant impact on the valuation of lands," said a senior official.

The work order pertaining to framing the design and alignment of the Inner Ring Road (IRR) was awarded to STUP Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

The CID alleged that the alignment was frozen in such a manner that the accused, who were connected to the decision-making authorities, derived maximum pecuniary benefit owing to the alignment of IRR and its connecting arterial roads, which were advantageously adjacent to the lands of the selected persons or entities.

Ex-Minister gets bail in A.P. exam scam

STAFF REPORTER
CHITTOOR

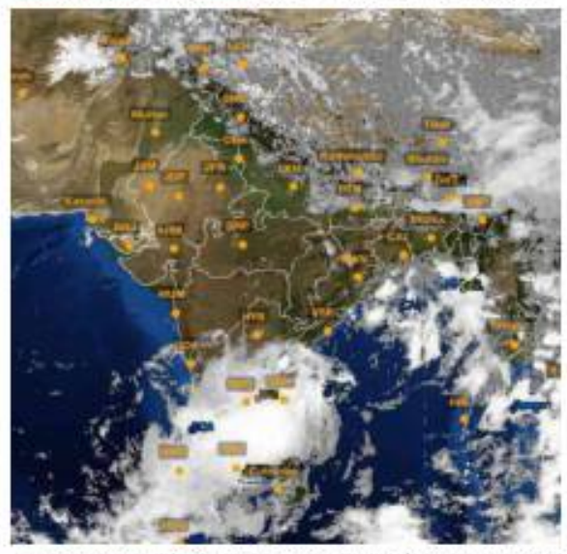
The Fourth Additional Magistrate Court in Chittoor granted bail to former Andhra Pradesh Minister P. Narayana in the early hours of Wednesday.

The police, who arrested Mr. Narayana from his residence in Hyderabad on Tuesday in connection with the Class 10 paper malpractice case, reached Chittoor around midnight, and produced the former Minister before the Judge Sulochana Rani around 2 a.m. on Wednesday.

Responding to the appeal of the advocates that Mr. Narayana had quit his positions in the Narayana Group of Institutions in 2014, the judge set aside the arguments from the police, leading to granting bail on furnishing of two sureties of ₹1 lakh each on or before May 18.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	35	32.0	24.8	Kozhikode	35	29.5	23.6
Ahmedabad	–	45.8	29.7	Kurnool	5	29.5	26.2
Aizawl	26	26.0	20.4	Lucknow	0.4	38.8	25.2
Allahabad	–	41.7	29.2	Madurai	–	34.0	27.4
Bengaluru	5.2	25.0	21.5	Mangaluru	0.4	28.4	26.5
Bhopal	–	42.3	27.8	Mumbai	–	34.1	27.4
Bhubaneswar	–	32.8	24.6	Mysuru	–	30.0	22.2
Chandigarh	–	40.3	28.2	New Delhi	–	41.4	28.0
Chennai	17	34.5	25.6	Patna	–	37.6	27.4
Coimbatore	0.9	26.0	22.4	Port Blair	3	32.4	26.8
Dehradun	7	34.6	21.4	Puducherry	1.5	31.4	24.8
Gangtok	–	21.9	15.0	Pune	–	38.5	24.9
Goa	–	32.6	28.0	Raipur	–	38.0	28.0
Guwahati	3	33.5	25.5	Ranchi	–	34.8	23.8
Hubballi	–	31.0	23.0	Shillong	8	22.0	17.3
Hyderabad	0.1	31.8	27.6	Shimla	–	29.3	20.0
Imphal	4	26.3	20.3	Srinagar	–	30.2	14.3
Jaipur	–	44.0	30.8	Thiruvananthapuram	17	32.6	23.3
Kochi	49.2	31.0	22.6	Tiruchi	–	33.6	26.5
Kohima	33	20.8	12.2	Vijayawada	3	30.6	27.8
Kolkata	11	31.6	25.7	Visakhapatnam	73	31.2	26.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	12	34	167	117	
Bengaluru	11	32	17	79	93	
Chennai	5	46	88	61	83	
Delhi	14	3	44	206	132	
Hyderabad	5	21	43	84	88	
Kolkata	17	14	30	57	78	
Lucknow	8	76	49	112	131	
Mumbai	6	3	24	–	354	
Pune	–	35	60	132	108	
Visakhapatnam	20	12	12	51	76	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 207 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Through the eyes of a child

Children from marginalised communities launch photobook

> **I had only been taking pictures on my phone, so using a camera made me happy.**
>
> DEVIKA N.
> I PU student

VEENA G.
BENGALURU

Devika N. is a I PU student pursuing humanities in Hebbal Government College. She lives in a house of nine members and her mother is a waste-picker. "I had only been taking pictures on my phone, so using a camera made me happy. We were taught a lot about how to take photos like finding good lighting, what makes a photo good or bad," said Devika.

She has now found a new passion for photography and is teaching other children in her neighbourhood how to take photos with a camera.

Devika's photos were part of the photobook *The World As I See - From the Child Photographers Representing the Waste-Picker Community* launched here on Tuesday.

Saamuhika Shakti, a collective-impact initiative by seven implementing organisations formed to enable informal waste-pickers in Bengaluru to lead more secure and dignified lives, conducted a two-day photojournalism workshop for children from marginalised communities. After the workshop, the children were provided with cameras to capture their world in their lenses. These photos have been compiled in a book and presented to the Department of Women and Child Development, Karnataka. The idea was to view the lives and priorities of the waste-picker community in the lens of the children.

During the launch, Priyanka Mary Francis, Director, Department of Women and Child Development, said the department is ready to support and see such good initiatives in the future too.

Jatin Mondar from Save the Children, which organised the programme, said photography proves to be a ray of hope for children to access their right to play, culture and arts.

Maria Bystedt, from the H&M foundation, talked about how crucial it is for the adults to have a look at these photographs and get involved and address the issues with them for the improvement of the community. "We are currently focusing on Bengaluru. If this model works, we intend to scale up," she added.

Akshay Soni, Executive Director, Saamuhika Shakti, The/Nudge Institute, said, "These children have transitioned from having their pictures taken of them, to taking pictures of the world. This is a great initiative to encourage the children of waste-pickers to follow their interests as other children do."

Ramya and DKS have a run-in on Twitter

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Actor and Congress leader Ramya had a run-in with KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Twitter on Wednesday, following which she was trolled, exposing chinks within the party.

Responding to Mr. Shivakumar's remarks on BJP Minister C. N. Ashwath Narayan's meeting with Congress leader M.B. Patil, Ms. Ramya tweeted, "People across parties meet each other, go to functions, some even get married into families – I'm surprised D.K. Shivakumar would say this about M.B. Patil who's a staunch Congressman. Shouldn't the party be fighting elections as one unit?"

On Tuesday, Mr. Shivkumar had said Dr. Ashwath Narayan had met the Congress leader for protection and to ask him not to raise corruption issues against him.

Soon after Ms. Ramya's tweet, several pro-Congress handles criticised her and questioned her remarks on Mr. Shivakumar. Hours later, Ms. Ramya posted several screenshots of these tweets, both in Kannada and English. "So the 'office' has circulated these messages among the Congress leaders & volunteers asking them troll me. Save yourself the trouble – I'll do it myself," she tweeted, tagging Mr. Shivakumar in the tweet.

FROM PAGE ONE

Maximum temperature in Bengaluru dips by 9° Celsius

"This drop in temperature is due to cyclone Asani. This was one of the least maximum temperatures in at least 10 years," the IMD director said.

Similar conditions are expected to prevail over the next two to three days, IMD scientists said, adding that the maximum temperature will climb up to 30 degree Celsius after that. "The good news for Karnataka though is that in May, maximum temperatures are expected to remain below normal, which means, there may not be heatwave conditions," said an official. Bengaluru's highest May maximum temperature was 38.9 degree Celsius recorded on May 22, 1931, while the lowest was 16.7 degree Celsius on May 6, 1945. On Wednesday, the minimum temperature stood at 21.5 degree Celsius. The daily mean maximum temperature for the month is 33.3 degree Celsius and minimum 21.7 degree Celsius.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇ./ದೋ.ಇ.ವಿ/ಟಿ-4/ಟೆಂಡರ್- 04/ 2022-23/380 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.05.2022
ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್)
ಆರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಆರ್ಹರಾಗುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (ಕೆಟಿಟಿಪಿ-3) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಪರಿಪಾಠಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವದು.
(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 30.05.2022 16.30 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 01.06.2022 16.30 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 02.06.2022 17.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ (4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 03.06.2022 17.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054-Gram Bhandu Setuve (Foot Bridge) ಬಿಡ್ ಐಡೆಂಟಿಫೈ: (1) 150274 (2) 150276
(ಕೆಟಿಟಿಪಿ-3) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ e-proc ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
DIPR/KDK/MCA/6523-23 dt.10.05.2022 ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PROJECT DIVISION, BIDAR
No.EE/P.D/BIDAR/T.A/KKRDB/TENDER/2022-23/98 Date:09-05-2022
SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-2
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka State, as per Karnataka transparency act 1999 and 2000 item wise e-procurement tendering is notified for following prescribed 02 road works from the eligible contractors of suitable category registered in public work, port and inland water transport department (PWP & IWTD), and panchayat raj engineering department (PRED) Minimum **(RS. 86.43Lakhs) (Rs. Eighty Six Lakh Forty Three Thousand only.)** and Maximum **(Rs.86.55Lakhs) (Rs. Eighty Six Lakh Fifty Five Thousand only.)** From such eligible category contractors tenders are invited For details and documents please log on to website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and requested to submit the applications. Work Indent No: **KRRDA/ 2020-21/RD/WORK_INDENT:5146 & 5147. (1)** Last date for submission of bidding rates through e-procurement: **23.05.2022 up to Evening 4.00 pm. (2)** Opening of technical bid: **25.05.2022 by Evening 04.30 pm Onwards. (3)** Opening of financial bid: **27.05.2022 by Morning 11.30 am** OnwardsOr After Approval of Technical Bid.
If at all the dates mentioned above happens to be declared government general holidays the very next working day will be considered for the event.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Division, Bidar
DIP/Bidar/80/MC&A/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga
NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB1/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 08/2022-23/756 DATE: 09-05-2022.
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER) KW-3 & 4
Item rate tender in two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-I contractors registered in KPWD (KW3 & KW4) for the following work through e-procurement portal.
Name of work:- (1) IMPROVEMENTS TO GOUNAHALLI TANK IN HIRIYUR TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-89.12 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-179000.00 (2) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECKDAM NEAR BHUTINAMADU TEMPLE NEAR ARASINAGUNDI IN HIRIYUR TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-176.86 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-266000.00 (3) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECKDAM NEAR HALAMADENAHALLI VILLAGE IN HIRIYUR TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-132.63 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-200000.00 (4) Package No.2:- RESTORATION OF ADANURU TANK IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICT.AND CONSTRUCTION OF CHECKDAM CUM CAUSEWAY AT GUNJIGANURU TANK KODI HALLA IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-302.17 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-454000.00 (5) IMPROVEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTION WALL TO FEEDER CANAL NEAR BELAGURU TANK IN HOSADURGA TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-176.87 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-266000.00 (6) MODERNIZATION OF NEERAGUNDA TANK IN HOSADURGA TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-176.83 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-266000.00 (7) MODERNIZATION OF DEVAPURA TANK IN HOSADURGA TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-176.83 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-266000.00 (8) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECK DAM CUM BRIDGE BEHIND JANAKAL SHANKARADEVARAKERE IN HOSADURGA TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-177.07 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-266000.00 (9) Package No.3:- RESTORATION OF TANK NEAR HIRIYURU MALLENAHALLI IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICT, RESTORATION OF KEREYAGALAHALLI TANK IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICTAND RESTORATION OF KAKABALU TANK AT R Sy No.6 IN CHITRADURGA TALUK AND DISTRICT. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-260.79 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-392000.00 (10) Package No.1:- CONSTRUCTION OF PERCOLATION TANK NEAR ECHAGHTTA IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICT, RESTORATION OF NALLIKATTE TANK FEEDER CANAL IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICT AND RESTORATION OF SHIVAGANGA TANK IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-305.62 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-459000.00 (11) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECK DAM ACROSS HALLA NEAR DAVANAHALLI, CONSTRUCTION OF CHECK DAM ACROSS HALLA NEAR SHYANUBHOGANAHALLI AND CONSTRUCTION OF CHECK DAM ACROSS HALLA NEAR THANIGEHALLI KAVALU-1 IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-267.77 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-402000.00 (12) CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TANK AT GOVT LAND NEAR TEKALAVATTI VILLAGE, CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TANK AT GOVT LAND NEAR KANIVEHALLI VILLAGE AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TANK AT KADUR KAVAL NEAR KALAGHATTA VILLAGE IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST . Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-258.83 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-389000.00 (13) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECKDAM ACROSS DODDANALA NEAR B DURGA & ACROSS HOSAKERE TANK WASTE WEIR NALA NEAR B DURGA VILLAGE IN HOLALKERE TALUK, CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. CALL-2. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-53.55 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-108000.00 (14) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECKDAM ACROSS NALA NEAR CHIKKAJAJUR, KODAGAVALLI & SHIVAPURA VILLAGES IN HOLALKERE TALUK, CHITRADURGA DISTRICT CALL-2 Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-53.54 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs: 108000.00 (15) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECK DAM CUM BRIDGE ACROSS GANDHARI HALLA NEAR DODDAGHATTA IN HOSADURGA TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-200.00 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-300000.00 (16) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECK DAM CUM CAUSEWAY ACROSS HALLA NEAR JAMMAPURA, NEAR NAGAPPA LAND AND CHANDRAPPA CHIKKAJJAS LAND OF RANGAYYANURU IN HOSADURGA TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-150.00 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-225000.00 (17) CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTION WALL, SOPANA AND CAUSE WAY FOR HALLA AT KOTEKALLU RANGANATHASWAMY TEMPLE NEAR DUGGAVARA IN HOSADURGA TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-200.00 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-300000.00 18) PACKAGE:- CONSTRUCTION OF CHECK DAM ACROSS GOVT HALLA NEAR MADDERU VILLAGE AND NEAR R.GOLLARAHALLI AND CONSTRUCTION OF BCB ACROSS HALLA NEAR BDRIKERE MALLENAHALLI IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-200.00 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-300000.00 19) PACKAGE:- IMPROVEMENT OF ARANAKATTE NEAR AVINAHATTI AND BHARATHAKATTE NEAR GULIHOSAHALLI IN HOLALKERE TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST AND IMPROVEMENT OF GOKATTE NEAR SIRIGERE SIDDAPURA IN CHITRADURGA TALUK CHITRADURGA DIST. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-190.00 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-285000.00 (20) Construction of CheckDam for Government Halla in G R Halli (Site-02) Village, Chitradurga Constituency, Chitradurga District Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-100.00 E.M.D. in Rs. In Lakhs:-200000.00 Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from **17-05-2022 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 25-05-2022 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 26-05-2022 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 27-05-2022 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 30-05-2022 after 4.30 P.M (If possible).** Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.
DIPR/CTA/MCA/114/2022-23 **Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Divison, Chitradurga**

Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
(Reg.No.DRB-2/SOR/54/2017-18)
Old School of Nursing Building, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02. Ph:080-26707727 e-Mail:igotinstitute@gmail.com
No: IGOT/EST/07/2022-23 Date: 10.05.2022
ABSTRACT NOTIFICATION
Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant invites application from eligible candidates for recruitment of nursing officers post, temporarily on contract basis.
The candidates are advised to file online application between the dates i.e., from **11.05.2022 to 25.05.2022 up to 5.30 P.M** available in the website **https://igotorgan.karnataka.gov.in**
The candidate should not be more than the age limit prescribed on the last date of submission of application. Age relaxation will be considered in special cases as per Government Policy in force i.e., General Recruitment rules.
The last date for payment of application fee in the post office will be **26.05.2022 upto 4.00 P.M.**

Residual Parent Cadre Posts	- 81 (Eighty One)
Hyderabad-Karnataka cadre posts	- 07 (Seven)
Total	- 88 Vacancy

Application fees and other details please logon to website **https://igotorgan.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Director, IGOT, Bangalore.

THE REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
No:1-1/15, Ground Floor, Unity Building, Silver Jubile Block, 3rd Cross, Mission Road, Bengaluru.
No:RERA/CR/Admin/94/2022-23 Date: 11.05.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority invites tender applications from qualified and experienced Security Agency to provide Security Guards on outsource basis to participate in e-tender through e-procurement. The tender application may be downloaded from **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sl. No	Events	Date
1	Publication of Tender	11/05/2022 @ 11.00
2	Last date and time for submission of application	25/05/2022 @ 5.30
3	Opening of Tender	27/05/2022 @ 11.30

The Secretary, Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.
Sd/- Secretary
Real Estate Regulatory Authority
Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/465/SHIRDI SAI/2022-23
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Frozen sedition

The Government must heed the spirit of SC order and help prevent misuse of sedition law

In a substantial blow in favour of free speech, the Supreme Court has effectively suspended the operation of the sedition provision in the country's penal law. "All pending trials, appeals and proceedings with respect to the charge framed under Section 124A be kept in abeyance", it has said in an order that will bring some welcome relief to those calling for the abrogation of Section 124A of the IPC, which criminalises any speech, writing or representation that "excites disaffection against the government". The Court has recorded its hope and expectation that governments at the Centre and the States will refrain from registering any fresh case of sedition under Section 124A of the IPC, or continuing with any investigation or taking any coercive measure under it. The hope and the expectation arise from the Union government's own submission that it has decided to re-examine and reconsider the provision as part of the Prime Minister's efforts to scrap outdated laws and compliance burdens. Perhaps, realising that its order may not be enough to deter thin-skinned and vindictive governments and politically pliant police officers from invoking it against detractors and dissenters, the Court has given liberty to the people to approach the jurisdiction courts if any fresh case is registered for sedition and cite in their support the present order, as well as the Union government's stand.

That the sedition law is being persistently misused has been recognised years ago, and courts have pointed out that the police authorities are not heeding the limitation imposed by a 1962 Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on what constitutes sedition. The Court had upheld the section only by reading it down to mean that it is applicable only to "acts involving intention or tendency to create disorder, or disturbance of law and order, or incitement to violence". In practice, the police have been using the broad definition of sedition to book anyone who criticised the Government in strong and strident language. The question now before the Court is whether it ought to overrule a decision rendered by a five-judge Bench 60 years ago. If it chooses to do so, and strikes down Section 124A as an unconstitutional restriction on free speech, it may help the larger cause of preventing misuse of provisions relating to speech-based offences. However, the Government may choose to prevent such a situation by amending it so that the offence is narrowly defined to cover only acts that affect the sovereignty, integrity and security of the state, as reportedly recommended by a panel of experts. When the Government submitted that it was revisiting the provision on its own, it was expecting only an indefinite postponement of the hearing on the constitutional validity of Section 124A, but it must now heed the spirit of the order and take effective steps to prevent its misuse.

Engage, not dismiss

Excess deaths measures are a robust way to estimate pandemic impact

The release of a report by WHO that estimates excess deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic to be nearly 10 times the reported COVID-19 death toll of 4.8 lakh in India between January 2020 and December 2021, the highest for any country, is not surprising. The pandemic did not just contribute to a surge in disease-related mortality, especially of the aged and the infirm, but also disrupted health systems that could have resulted in many other avoidable deaths. A robust estimation of the excess deaths was necessary to understand the pandemic effect in India where death registration after occurrence is not universal across States and medical certification of deaths is quite low in number. The Government has strongly denied the numbers and dismissed the methodology by saying that the WHO approach is based on modelled estimates and not actual data. It countered it by finally releasing the Civil Registration System report for 2020 (two days prior to the release of the WHO report) and saying that the cumulative increase in the number of deaths in 2020 was only 4.74 lakh, lower than the corresponding number for 2019. While most deaths – close to two thirds – occurred during the second wave in India from March to June 2021 (and later in some States such as Kerala), and therefore the late release of the CRS 2020 report does not entirely negate the WHO estimates that are based on registered deaths data available from "sub-national" units, there is indeed a discrepancy for 2020 data.

The WHO estimates for States were based on CRS registration data obtained by news organisations – the bulk of them by *The Hindu*. For 2020, cumulatively, the excess deaths estimations (close to 5.5 lakh for 12 States) for most such States for which data were obtained, match the CRS 2020 calculations (5.3 lakh). Discrepancies are quite high for those States where CRS data were only partially or not available earlier. A case in point is Uttar Pradesh where death (8.73 lakh in 2020 vs 9.45 lakh in 2019) and birth registrations (48.5 in 2020 vs 51.3 lakh in 2019) fell significantly and therefore skewed the overall country-wide excess deaths numbers. But without the release of the Sample Registration System data, it is difficult to believe that in States such as U.P., there has been an increase in registration levels even while there is a decrease in actual birth and death registration. The NFHS-5 2021 interviews show that death registration in 2020 was lower than previous years as opposed to the Government's claims based on CRS 2020. The Government must not dismiss the WHO estimates and should instead look at undertaking its own exercise on excess deaths based on registration data in the CRS/SRS. After all, other methods, including surveys, have corroborated the fact that there was a high under-reporting of COVID-19 deaths during the pandemic.

The bitter dispute over India's pandemic mortality

The 'modelling' that the Government is objecting to is largely simple data analysis and techniques for filling data gaps

AASHISH GUPTA & MURAD BANAJI

How many people died in India as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? This question has become the subject of a heated argument after the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated India's pandemic excess deaths at around 4.7 million. The Government of India issued a strongly worded response, and media houses and editors waded in. It is almost as though life and death themselves are now matters of opinion.

The background

Here are some basic observations. First, we will never know precisely how many excess deaths occurred in India during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Second, all mortality studies, including the latest from WHO, involve choices about what data to include, how to fill gaps, and how to deal with uncertainty; there is always room for debate and disagreement about these choices. Third, uncertainty does not mean total ignorance: even the most optimistic reading of the data puts excess deaths at six or seven times official COVID-19 deaths.

The current dispute has been noisier than usual, but is not new. Several studies, most putting India's pandemic excess deaths at between three and five million, have been met by strident Government "rebuttals". These rebuttals have highlighted the uncertainties (which is valid), and then jumped – without justification – to claiming that there are no excess deaths beyond recorded COVID-19 deaths. The rebuttals are also littered with irrelevant, confused and absurd points.

The latest response is well summarised in its title: "India strongly objects to the use of mathematical models for projecting excess mortality estimates in view of the availability of authentic data". The "authentic data" in question is mortality data from the Civil Registration System (CRS), and there are two implications: that CRS data has been ignored by the researchers; that CRS data does not support estimates of high pandemic mortality.

Both are false. Estimates of pandemic mortality, including those of WHO, are largely data-driven, and the main data-source is – you guessed it – the CRS. This data strongly supports estimates of high pandemic mortality. The "modelling" that the Government objects to is largely simple data analysis and techniques for filling gaps in the data, entirely unavoidable if we are to use CRS data to estimate excess mortality.

Civil registration data

To make sense of all this, we need to consider what data is available and what it shows. In 2021, journalists managed to obtain monthly death registrations at the State or city level; these crucial efforts led to the first hard evidence that official COVID-19 deaths were only the tip of the iceberg. Although valuable, the data is patchy: not all States and regions are covered; it often comes from online systems which do not capture all registrations; and it often misses the latter part of India's devastating second wave. Nevertheless, a clear picture emerges: there was a gradual surge in deaths during the second half of 2020, which subsided and was followed by a tsunami of deaths during April-June 2021.

Although the data comes from local government records, the Health Ministry objects that it is "non-official". However, there is

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no official CRS report for 2021, and only very recently (on May 3, 2022) was the 2020 CRS report made available. This report does not give monthly registrations, so it is hard to cross-check with earlier data. In yearly totals, there are some discrepancies; but, nevertheless, we found that the gross estimates for 2020 were broadly aligned across the States whose data we ourselves had used in our estimates.

With everyone in agreement on the value of CRS data, how does the Government propose to explain away the pandemic surge in deaths? We find the answer in a bizarre assertion: during 2020, the Government claims, 99.9% of all deaths in India were registered. The message is: what appears like a rise in mortality in 2020, actually reflects a sharp improvement in registration. Note that this could never explain the bulk of excess deaths which came later, during 2021. But is the claim of complete death registration in 2020 plausible?

On the contrary, it is absurd. Consider the data from Uttar Pradesh. The government Sample Registration System tells us to expect around 1.5 million deaths in Uttar Pradesh every year. But during 2020 only 0.87 million deaths were registered, around 60% of the expected toll. If registration was complete, then 2020 saw a huge, unexplained, drop in deaths in the State!

Consider, also, Andhra Pradesh, where freely available CRS data tells a startling story: during 15 months from April 2020 to June 2021, over 50% more deaths were registered than expected. Could this reflect an improvement in registration? No. According to the 2019 CRS report, there was no room for improvement as death registration in the State was already complete before the pandemic. This is probably an overstatement; but however we look at it, Andhra Pradesh's huge mortality surge cannot be explained via increased registration coverage.

It is possible that in some States, registration coverage improved during the pandemic. But, overall, registration probably dropped during 2020. Data from the Government's latest National Family Health Survey suggests that deaths that occurred in 2020 were less likely to be registered than deaths in 2019. Birth registration data from the CRS points in the same direction: after increasing by 5% during 2017-18 and 7% during 2018-19, birth registrations fell by 2.5% in 2020.

Disruption to registration could have been especially severe in marginalised communities and in States where registration is anyway weak. In Uttar Pradesh, for example, both birth and death registrations fell sharply during 2020. Assuming that registration held steady during the pandemic, as we and many others have done, risks underestimating the mortality surge.

Some conclusions

India was badly hit. A year ago, tragic stories of overflowing hospitals and oxygen shortages filled the news as the virus swept through the country. There is now a weight of evidence – not just from the CRS, but from surveys too – telling us that many millions died. Data is still emerging, and estimating pandemic mortality will be an ongoing effort; but this effort is undermined by the shrill, incoherent response from the Government following each study.

All the estimates come with uncertainty and depend on choices. For example, the WHO estimate drops from 4.7 million to 4.4 million if we consider the pandemic period to span April 2020-July 2021 rather than January 2020-December 2021. Acknowledging the uncertainties and debating the choices is natural, but is very different from dismissing the estimates.

Strengthen the CRS

The tragedy has been huge; but in the global context, India is not an outlier. Parts of the developing world and eastern Europe saw similarly high pandemic mortality. Historical weaknesses and deliberate dishonesty, well-documented by journalists, mean that India recorded only 10%-15% of its pandemic deaths. In this too, India is not alone. India's all-cause mortality data is imperfect – but in many Asian and African countries, the data is even sparser. The current state of affairs highlights both the value of India's CRS data, and the need to strengthen the CRS.

What is most troubling – and makes India stand out – is the relentless Government hostility towards every attempt to understand the pandemic. If the objections were made in good faith, the Government could accelerate the release of data, for example from the CRS for 2021 or from the Sample Registration System. Ultimately, the rift is not about science, data or methodology; the basic question is whether we wish to pursue the truth or not.

Aashish Gupta is a David E. Bell Fellow at Harvard University. Murad Banaji is a U.K.-based mathematician who has closely tracked India's pandemic data

Still a long way for termination as an unconditional right

Despite amendments, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act does not foreground the woman's right to decide

ANUBHA RASTOGI

The issue of abortion is in the news again, internationally. This, therefore, appears to be a good time to pen down a summary and analysis of the legal status of abortions in India.

Under the general criminal law of the country, i.e. the Indian Penal Code, voluntarily causing a woman with child to miscarry is an offence attracting a jail term of up to three years or fine or both, unless it was done in good faith where the purpose was to save the life of the pregnant woman. A pregnant woman causing herself to miscarry is also an offender under this provision apart from the person causing the miscarriage, which in most cases would be a medical practitioner.

Amendments and expansion

In 1971, after a lot of deliberation, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act was enacted. This law is an exception to the IPC provisions above and sets out the rules – of when, who, where, why and by whom – for accessing an MTP. This law has been amended twice since, the most recent set of amendments being in the year 2021 which has, to some extent, expanded the scope of the law. However, the law does not recognise and/or acknowledge the right of a pregnant person to decide on the discontinuation of a pregnancy.

The law provides for a set of reasons based on which an MTP can be accessed: the continuation of the pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant woman or result in grave injury to her physical or mental health. The law explains that if the pregnancy is as a result of rape or failure of contraceptive used by the pregnant woman or her partner to limit the number of children or to prevent a pregnancy, the anguish caused by the continuation of such a pregnancy would be considered to be a grave injury to the mental health of the pregnant woman. The other reason for seeking an MTP is the substantial risk that if the child was born, it would suffer from any serious physical or mental abnormality.

The existence of one of these circumstances (at least), along with the medical opinion of the medical practitioner registered under the MTP Act is required. A pregnant person cannot ask for a termination of pregnancy without fitting in one of the reasons set out in the law. The other set of limitations that the law provides is the gestational age of the pregnancy. The pregnancy can be terminated for any of the above reasons, on the opinion of a single registered

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medical practitioner up to 20 weeks of the gestational age. From 20 weeks up to 24 weeks, the opinion of two registered medical practitioners is required. This extended gestational limit is applicable to certain categories of women which the rules define as either a survivor of sexual assault or rape or incest, minors, change of marital status during the ongoing pregnancy, i.e. either widowhood or divorce, women with major physical disabilities, mentally-ill women including mental retardation, the ground of foetal malformation incompatible with life or if the child is born it would be seriously handicapped, and women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations as declared by the government.

Any decision for termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks gestational age, only on the ground of foetal abnormalities can be taken by a Medical Board as set up in each State, as per the law. No termination of pregnancy can be done in the absence of the consent of the pregnant person, irrespective of age and/or mental health.

The law, as an exception to all that is stated above, also provides that where it is immediately necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman, the pregnancy can be terminated at any time by a single registered medical practitioner. This, as stated, is the exception and is understood to be resorted to only when the likelihood of the pregnant woman dying is immediate.

Seeking judicial permission

While India legalised access to abortion in certain circumstances much before most of the world did the same, unfortunately, even in 2020 we decided to remain in the logic of 1971. This, despite the fact that by the time the amendments to the MTP Act were tabled before the Lok Sabha in 2020, just before the lockdown following the novel coronavirus pandemic, courts across the country (over the preceding four years) had seen close to 500 cases of pregnant women seeking permission to terminate their pregnancy (broadly on reasons of either the pregnancy being as a result of sexual assault or there being foetal anomalies incompatible with life). In a number of these cases, the courts had articulated the right of a pregnant woman to decide on the continuation of her pregnancy as a part of her right to health and right to life, and therefore non-negotiable. Similarly, a number of courts had also viewed the cases at hand in the realm of the facts of the case and decided not to set the interpretation of the law straight.

This was also after the landmark right to privacy judgment of the Supreme Court of India in which it was held that the decision making by a pregnant person on whether to continue a pregnancy or not is part of such a person's right to privacy as well and, therefore, the right to life. The standards set out in this judgment were also not incorporated in the amendments being drafted. The new law is not in sync with other central laws such as the laws on persons with disabilities, on mental health and on transgender persons, to name a few. The amendments also did not make any attempts to iron out the conflations between the MTP Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act or the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, to name a few.

While access to abortion has been available under the legal regime in the country, there is a long road ahead before it is recognised as a right of a person having the capacity to become pregnant to decide, unconditionally, whether a pregnancy is to be continued or not.

Anubha Rastogi is a lawyer practising in the courts of Mumbai for the past 19 years and is an active voice on sexual reproductive health and justice issues

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Troubled Sri Lanka

The crisis in Sri Lanka could be attributed, apart from the autocratic style of the Rajapaksas, to the setback the country's tourism industry – the mainstay of Sri Lanka's economy – received, first by the onslaught of COVID-19 and then compounded by the Ukraine war. With the present volatile situation in the country not showing signs of abatement, the industry would take many more years to regain its past glory. Its economy is going to plummet only further. India needs to take a number of proactive steps as a neighbour. Apart from economic aid, it has a duty to safeguard the interests of the ethnic community, still treated as aliens in their own country. There is every possibility of the present economic crisis snowballing into an ethnic conflict at some time or the other. Such a situation would have a cascading effect on Indian shores. India has an unenviable task of treading a middle path.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

■ Sri Lanka has been a victim of both prolonged bad governance and misfortune. Deep-rooted corruption and the disastrous handling of the economy along with the loss of tourism earnings have brought the country to the brink of collapse. The country does need a new leadership which is honest and able to turn the situation around. The main lesson is that the Rajapaksas have shown how things can go terribly wrong.

GREGORY FERNANDES,
Mumbai

■ Is Sri Lanka on the cusp of anarchy? Ostensibly, democracy is being supplanted by mobocracy. Interestingly, the plight of India's neighbours seems to have a common thread – the leadership in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Myanmar is facing difficulty, having to fall from grace and demitting office ignominiously. The long and short of the collapse of the economy in Sri Lanka is the running of the country on the whims and fancies of the rulers of the day sans sound economics. India must use its good offices to salvage the sinking Sri Lankan ship.

DEEPAK SINGHAL,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

■ Every chapter describing the ongoing Sri Lankan events must be a lesson for the power mongers of India in particular and those of all nations in general. Though the main theme is about the island country's economic crisis, it only followed the tyrannical and irresponsible style of governance there that was characterised by corruption, inefficiency, selfish motives, arrogance, egoism and the rest. Unfortunately, the financial status and way of functioning of governments in India compare well with Sri Lanka. It is no silly matter that the angst of the people in Sri Lanka prevented the perpetrators of the crimes from escaping to other countries. That India is larger and more diverse is no thread to hang on. No global diplomacy can come to one's help. So is the dependence on the oft-quoted "people's mandate" in elections. All voters cannot be fooled all of the time.

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

Ensure food safety

The dictum 'consumer is king' remains more in breach than in trust. As the consumption of packaged foods and bottled drinks is on the rise, ensuring food safety concerns rests on food regulatory authorities. One has to accept that FSSAI approval remains mere tokenism. Barring the expiry date, other assimilable quality details are hardly visible on food packages.

Dr. V. PURUSHOTHAMAN,
Chennai

Shivkumar Sharma

In the passing of santoor maestro Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, the nation has lost one of its most illustrious sons who placed the string instrument on a high pedestal in Indian classical music. The cascading flow of notes would send the listener into rapturous delight. The nation needs to acknowledge his gargantuan contribution to Indian classical music.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

The winners and losers of the war

India has neither lost nor gained anything by refusing to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine

CHINMAYA R. GHAREKHAN

Medical workers evacuate wounded people from war-affected areas of eastern Ukraine, in Dnipro. • REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin has lost the war by not winning. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has won by not losing. India has neither lost nor won.

The war is not over yet. The U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, believes that it will likely go on until the end of this year, probably beyond that. Nonetheless, it is possible to arrive at a preliminary balance sheet of the war at this stage.

The Ukrainians and Putin

The biggest losers are the people of Ukraine. They have been extremely brave and resilient, and their leader has done an unbelievable job. Their country is devastated, flattened in large areas. Many lives have been lost. Millions have been uprooted from their homes and familiar surroundings. Children will be in a state of trauma for many years. It will take years and billions of dollars to rebuild their country. The funding will come, though not perhaps in the form of grants. Industries in the West will make billions helping in the reconstruction of Ukraine.

The other big loser is President Putin. This is a many-sided loss for him. He expected his mighty army to occupy Kyiv in quick time and install a friendly regime. The fact that his Foreign Minister has now brought nuclear weapons into the equation is a sure sign of desperation. Mr. Putin has lost face with his own people. We won't know the number of casualties his army has suffered until much later, if ever, but the body bags have started arriving. His armed forces have under-performed. Perhaps they were not expecting to be pushed into the war all of a sudden. Mr. Putin has, irretrievably, lost the trust and friendship of Ukrainians; they will remain, for a very long time, hostile and bitter towards Russia. His war has produced exactly the result that he did not want and for which he launched the war. Ukraine has got closer to the West. Ukraine will certainly be admitted to the European Union (EU), perhaps not tomorrow but in the near future. Mr. Putin has lost credibility with his peers as well as with nearly everyone else.

The raison d'etre for Mr. Putin to launch the war was to keep the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from getting closer to Russia's eastern borders. His distrust for the West is justified, keeping in mind the history of broken commitments and promises by the West to Mr. Putin's predecessors at the highest level about not extending NATO's scope "one inch" closer to Russian borders. But his war has produced exactly the opposite result. He has succeeded in ensuring that NATO will come even closer to Russia's borders. Sweden and Finland will likely join NATO soon. Russia will truly be hemmed in by NATO.

Gains for the West

The biggest winner is the West. President Putin watched with satisfaction the rift in the Trans-Atlantic Alliance which former U.S. President Donald Trump had caused. Mr. Putin thought he would widen that breach. His expectation, a reasonable one, was that countries such as Germany which, given their dependence on Russian energy sources, will refuse to go along with U.S. President Joe Biden's sanctions on Russia. But once again, Mr. Putin managed to produce the opposite result. Germany and others will no doubt suffer considerably by reducing and eventually cutting off energy supplies from Russia, but they have committed themselves to phase out import of Russian oil by the end of the year. And if Mr. Biden is persuaded to mend fences with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Europe will be able to weather the energy crisis without much pain. In any case, with summer not too far, the demand for energy will decline significantly.

The West also gains economically. Industries in the West will make billions helping in the reconstruction of Ukraine. The billions they are spending on sending critical weapons and other material to Ukraine are all spent in their own countries. Yes, petrol prices have risen, but they seem to have peaked and now are now falling in some places.

Countries with dilemmas

China is facing a more acute dilemma than India. It has an enormous stake in the West in terms of trade and technology. Its two-way trade with the U.S. and EU is many times more than its trade with Russia. Europe and the U.S. have warned China of serious consequences if it helps Russia evade the sanctions by enlarging the scope of yuan-ruble trade. At the same time, China would hate to see President Putin lose or overthrown. President Biden has openly called for regime change in Moscow; subsequent attempts by his officials to explain away his words do not carry conviction. For the Chinese Communist Party, ensuring continued improvement in the living standards of the people is a sine qua non for its survival in power. China's growth rate has plummeted over the last few years.

Sitting on the fence has not cost India so far. India has certainly displeased the U.S. and other Western countries with its neutral or non-aligned posture on the war. It has not supported a single resolution on the Ukraine situation. However, the U.S. has been restrained in expressing its disappointment with India. India seems to have concluded that the U.S. will continue to be patient with it, given the American strategy to contain China for which India's participation is vital. The fact that the U.S. has chosen not to penalise India, as it has Turkey, a NATO ally, for purchasing the Russian anti-missile defence system S-400 and that it is turning a blind eye to India buying Russian oil in large quantities, and that too in a rupee-ruble arrangement, shows that India's position has not cost us anything, at least for the present.

Nor has India gained anything. Yes, Russia has thanked India for its independent stance, but such thank yous do not mean much in international relations. We are getting Russian oil at a discount price, but Russia needs to sell its oil. Even if we had been more forthright in condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there would have no negative consequences. Like the U.S., Russia also needs India. Now, when Russian weapons have proved to be not so effective, the demand for Russian weaponry will decline globally. If not India, who else will buy Russian hardware in large quantities? India's failure to deplore Russia's threat to introduce nuclear weapons into the equation is deeply disappointing.

Chinmaya R. Gharekhan, a former Indian Ambassador to the United Nations, was Special Envoy for West Asia in the Manmohan Singh government

From Bharat to India

Given the diversity and complexity of India, the only constitutionally valid common denominator is citizenship

HAMID ANSARI

'From Bharat to India' is an eye-catching title, obverse as it is to prevalent terminology. This is the description that eminent sociologist and former president of the International Sociological Association, T.K. Oommen, has used for part two of his autobiographical essay; the first section, 'Workography', was published some years ago. This neat, albeit unusual, bifurcation of life sheds light on his thought process.

A secure society

Over the years, Prof. Oommen has written extensively on the concept of social security. He says the principal challenges to the evolution of a nation lie in minimising disparity, eradicating discrimination, and avoiding alienation. He has listed nine categories of socially and/or politically and/or excluded groups in our society: "Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, cultural minorities – both religious and linguistic, women, refugees-foreigners-outsiders, people [of] Northeast India, the poor and the disabled". He has suggested that "the three sources of exclusion in India – stratification, heterogeneity and hierarchy – create intersectionality." This insecurity manifests itself in genocide, culturocide and ecocide and in its absence, a society may be conceptualised as secure.

The concluding sections of the monograph are on the idea of India, on social formation and the moulding of individual identities. Prof. Oommen dwells on the diversity of our social make-up and makes the telling point that his identity as a Dravidian can be traced to 5,000 years ago, his identity as a Syrian Christian to two millennia and as a Malayalam speaker to six centuries. Each of these coexists with his being an Indian for seven decades and, by the same token, qualifies the latter. The Indian polity, he says, "has the most elaborate set of identities based on class, religion, gender, caste, region, language and their intersectionalities as well as consequent permutations and combinations. To ignore this complex social set up and speak in terms of 'multiple identities' is not only simplistic but also misleading. And, given the long history of India and its shifting frontiers, it is not easy even to identify the identity markers of Indian citizens and demarcate the numerous identity groups in India." A fruitful route forward would be to look at "the major steps in the social formation of India".

These remarks suggest a re-look at the contours of the current, politically fashionable debate about unity in diversity and social inclusion. This does not seem to be happening; instead, as a reputable journal has put it, 'bulldozing the idea of India' seems to have become the preferred option of those associated with the ruling circles. This is neither desirable nor healthy for the polity and while there is endless talk of the Constitution, the principles of liberty, justice, equality and fraternity that are intended to give unity to the nation are being sidestepped.

Recalling these principles compels us to revert to B.R. Ambedkar's last speech in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949 and to his three warnings to ensure continuance of democracy "not merely in form but also in fact." These were constitutional procedures, avoidance of hero worship, and social democracy instead of mere political democracy. The latter, Ambedkar emphasised, necessitates equality and fraternity. Why then is the principle of fraternity absent from the pronouncements of leaders? Its absence suggests a disconcerting pattern and leads to the endorsement of differentiations between citizen and citizen. How would such polarisation promote national unity?

The common denominator

Given the diversity and complexity of India, the only constitutionally valid common denominator is citizenship. This is the point at which fraternity can and should be practiced among equals. Prof. Oommen, however, is not content with this and seeks "an isomorphous model for India's socio-cultural reality". He opines that it is "only through the conflation of state and nation" can our Republic be considered a nation. Cultural monoism and secularism are insufficient, he says; instead, "the idea of conceptualizing India as a multicultural polity is more amenable than a secular India." The sheet anchor of this has to be citizenship.

There is a teaser towards the end in relation to Article 351 of the Constitution on the national language. Hindi is to be enriched by 'Hindustani' along with other languages in the Eighth Schedule; yet the latter does not figure in the list of the Eighth Schedule. Prof. Oommen instead suggests that "India shall be a multicultural nation and not a nation-state having many identities and that eventually the preferable solution would lie in a confederation - USSA (United States of South Asia)." Could this be one way of giving shape to Bharat?

Hamid Ansari is former Vice-President of India

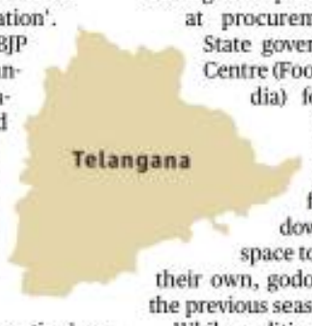
STATE OF PLAY

Caught in political wrangling

All the political parties are trying to woo the farmers in Telangana, but problems abound

RAVI REDDY AND B. CHANDRASEKHAR

Last month, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, the Congress and the BJP went all out to woo the disgruntled farmers of Telangana. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and his Cabinet colleagues led a dharna in New Delhi on April 11 in support of the demand that the Centre procure paddy. The Congress brought in Rahul Gandhi to lead a farmers' rally on May 6 at Warangal where it announced the 'Warangal Declaration'. Not to lag behind, the BJP State president Bandi Sanjay's three week-long padayatra has been devoted to exposing the TRS government's "anti-farmer policies" and the failure of the former Congress government in completing pending irrigation projects.



The 'Warangal Declaration' assures a ₹2 lakh farm loan waiver at one go and an increase in paddy support price to ₹2,500 per quintal if the Congress is brought to power. It also promises investment support of ₹15,000 per acre per annum to both land owners and tenant farmers under the Indiramma Rythu Bharosa scheme. This is to replace the present Rythu Bandhu scheme. The TRS says the Warangal Declaration is nothing but a repeat of the State government's existing schemes "with some changes here and there".

Even after the April 11 protest, the Centre stood its ground and the State had no option but to procure the Rabi paddy. It procured 8.63 lakh tonnes of paddy worth ₹1,812 crore from 1,28,329 farmers till May 9. Of this, 7.59 lakh tonnes have been shifted to rice mills for custom milling as raw rice. The government has opened 5,299 procurement centres in 30 districts.

Agriculture Minister S. Niranjan Reddy admitted that there has been some delay in implementing crop loan waiver of up to ₹1 lakh per farmer in four years as promised in the 2018 Assembly election manifesto. This, he said, was mainly because of the impact of COVID-19 on the State's revenue. Loan waiver of up to ₹1 lakh was implemented after the TRS's victory in the 2014 polls, he pointed out.

The TRS sought to know from both the Congress and the BJP why no State under their rule is implementing schemes such as Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima.

At present, the major problem for Telangana farmers is the snail's pace at which paddy procurement is progressing even as untimely rains have damaged crop in the farm fields and at procurement centres. The State government blames the Centre (Food Corporation of India) for lack of storage space. It says it is unable to move the custom milled rice from mills to godowns. While mills lack space to hold rice stocks on their own, godowns are filled with the previous season's stocks.

While political parties are busy wrangling, organisations working for farmers say there is no policy framework to support the sector at the national level although States too have their responsibilities. "It is absurd that the Centre has no Agriculture Advisory Council. As a result, the farm sector suffers from the produce and perish syndrome," says CIFA chief adviser P. Chengal Reddy. He says the government must make farmers globally competitive so that farming is more lucrative. Every agricultural commodity needs an action plan and a board at the national level to market the produce globally by bringing uniformity in quality, he says. "Problems include low productivity, high input costs and huge wastage. The government has to give incentives for farm exports," he says.

But parties, especially the Congress and the BJP, appear to have little to offer. The Congress has not implemented these farm promises in any of the States where it is in power. And most of the policies governing the agriculture sector, such as support price and exports, are in the Centre's court.

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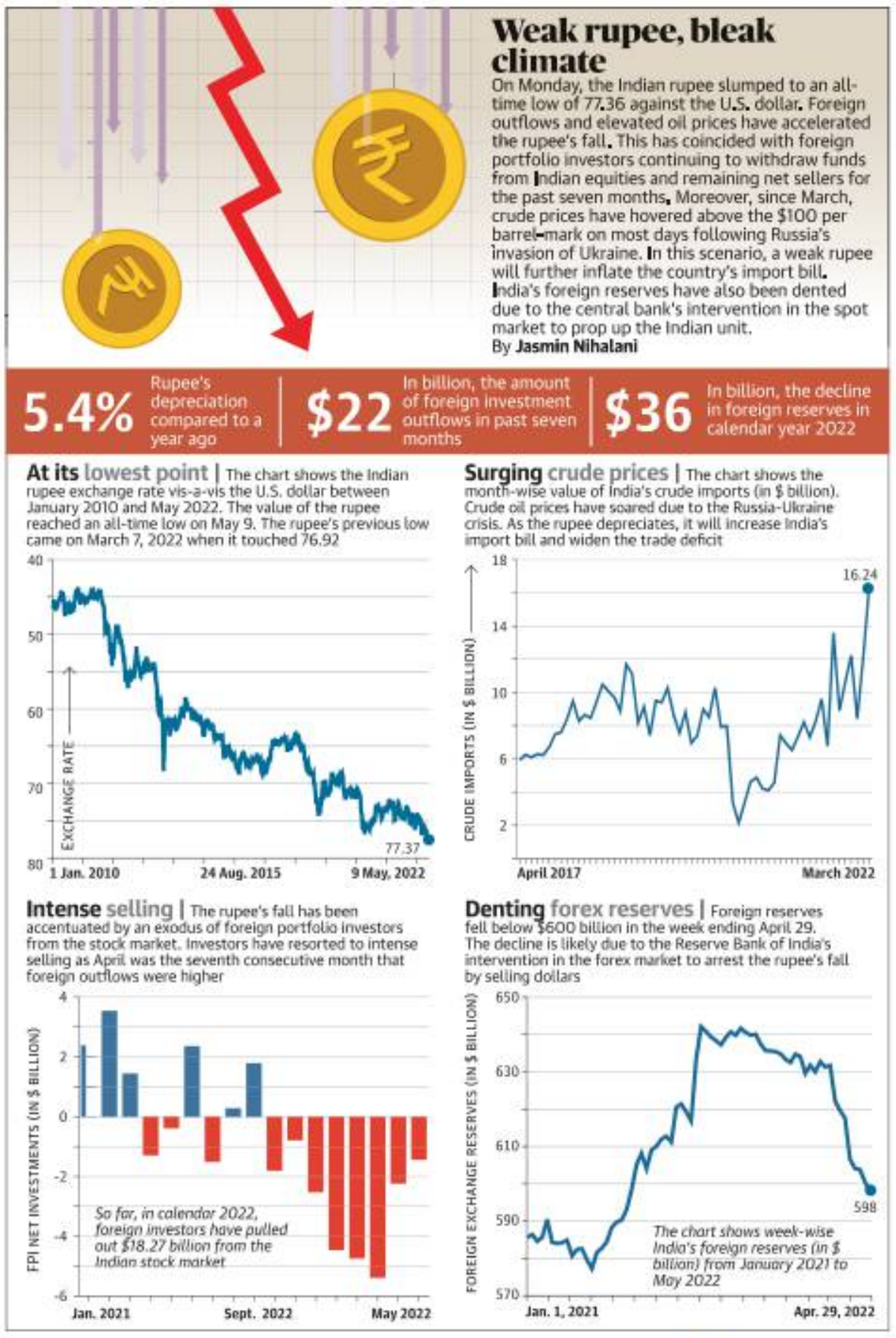
DATA POINT


Weak rupee, bleak climate
On Monday, the Indian rupee slumped to an all-time low of 77.36 against the U.S. dollar. Foreign outflows and elevated oil prices have accelerated the rupee's fall. This has coincided with foreign portfolio investors continuing to withdraw funds from Indian equities and remaining net sellers for the past seven months. Moreover, since March, crude prices have hovered above the $100 per barrel-mark on most days following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In this scenario, a weak rupee will further inflate the country's import bill. India's foreign reserves have also been dented due to the central bank's intervention in the spot market to prop up the Indian unit.
By Jasmin Nihalani
5.4% Rupee's depreciation compared to a year ago
$22 In billion, the amount of foreign investment outflows in past seven months
$36 In billion, the decline in foreign reserves in calendar year 2022
At its lowest point | The chart shows the Indian rupee exchange rate vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar between January 2010 and May 2022. The value of the rupee reached an all-time low on May 9. The rupee's previous low came on March 7, 2022 when it touched 76.92
EXCHANGE RATE
40
50
60
70
80
77.37
1 Jan. 2010
24 Aug. 2015
9 May, 2022
Surging crude prices | The chart shows the month-wise value of India's crude imports (in $ billion). Crude oil prices have soared due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. As the rupee depreciates, it will increase India's import bill and widen the trade deficit
CRUDE IMPORTS (IN $ BILLION)
18
14
10
6
2
16.24
April 2017
March 2022
Intense selling | The rupee's fall has been accentuated by an exodus of foreign portfolio investors from the stock market. Investors have resorted to intense selling as April was the seventh consecutive month that foreign outflows were higher
FPI NET INVESTMENTS (IN $ BILLION)
4
2
0
-2
-4
-6
So far, in calendar 2022, foreign investors have pulled out $18.27 billion from the Indian stock market
Jan. 2021
Sept. 2022
May 2022
Denting forex reserves | Foreign reserves fell below $600 billion in the week ending April 29. The decline is likely due to the Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the forex market to arrest the rupee's fall by selling dollars
FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES (IN $ BILLION)
650
630
610
590
570
598
The chart shows week-wise India's foreign reserves (in $ billion) from January 2021 to May 2022
Jan. 1, 2021
Apr. 29, 2022

The Hindu.
FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 12, 1972

Press ownership: panel completes study

New Delhi, May 11: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, told the Rajya Sabha to-day that a group of Union Ministers, which was looking into all aspects of the question of diffusion of newspaper ownership, had now come to the end of its labours. After its recommendations were received, the matter would be considered by the entire Cabinet. Mrs. Gandhi, who was replying to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and others said she was sorry that there was some delay in taking a decision on this question. The delay was mainly due to the fact that the question was extremely complex and the Government, therefore, wanted to look into all aspects. Earlier, replying to Mr. Gupta, the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Mrs. Nandini Satpathy, denied that the Government had shelved the proposed Bill for delinking the newspapers from the industrial houses and for the diffusion of ownership. She said a group of Ministers was at present examining certain proposals. The group, which had met four times, included Mohan Kumaramangalam, Mr. H.R. Gokhale, Mr. Raj Bahadur, Mr. Uma Shanker Dikshit, Mr. K.V. Raghunatha Reddy and herself. Since the matter was "very serious", she could not say how long it would take for the Government to arrive at a decision. Mr. Gupta complained that one year had passed since the Government gave an assurance to bring forward a Bill for diffusion of ownership of newspapers. He wanted to know whether the Prime Minister had recently invited some editors of big newspapers to discuss this question and whether Mr. N.K. Nanporia who had suggested to the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru that the Press Commission's recommendation should be implemented, was one of them.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 12, 1922

Repression at Bellary

Bellary, May 10: The following order dated 5-5-22 of the District Magistrate of Bellary under section 112 C.P.C. has been served on Mr. B. Bhima Rao: Whereas I am informed that Mr. B. Bhima Rao has contravened the provisions of sections 108-B C.P.C. by circulating matter the publication of which is punishable under section 153-A of the Indian Penal Code, to wit, a leaflet whereof a copy is attached hereto, I call on the said Mr. B. Bhima Rao to show cause why he could not be called upon to execute a bond himself in the sum of Rs. 1,000 with two sureties each for a like amount to be of good behaviour for a period of one year.

FROM PAGE ONE

SC puts colonial sedition law on hold

"It is clear that the Union of India agrees with the *prima facie* opinion expressed by this court that the rigours of Section 124A of the IPC is not in tune with the current social milieu, and was intended for a time when this country was under the colonial regime. In light of the same, the Union of India may reconsider the provision of law," the court observed in its 10-page order.

The Bench, however, did not give a deadline for the reconsideration exercise, aware that it may involve legislative process.

The court's interim order is expressly a balancing act. "This court is cognisant of security interests and integrity of the state on one hand, and the civil liberties of citizens on the other. There is a requirement to balance both sets of considerations, which is a difficult exercise," it observed.

It also referred to Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal's submissions about "glaring instances of abuse of Section 124A" like the recent booking of persons under sedition for chanting the Hanuman Chalisa.

"Therefore, we expect that, till the re-examination of the provision is complete, it will be appropriate not to continue the usage of the provision by the governments," the top court reasoned.

Law Minister talks of 'Lakshman Rekha'

"Speaking truth is patriotism, not treason. Telling the truth is loving the country, not being a traitor. Listening to the truth is *Rajdharma*. To crush the truth is arrogance of power," Mr. Gandhi tweeted in Hindi.

Mr. Rijiju said these were empty words and that the Congress had been the "anti-thesis of freedom, democracy and respect for institutions". "This party has always stood with Breaking India forces and left no opportunity to divide India," he tweeted.

Responding to the Law Minister's *Lakshman Rekha* comment, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury pointed to the constitutional scheme of division of powers that made the executive accountable to legislature, which, in turn, was answerable to the people.

"Before talking about the *Lakshman Rekha*, the BJP should also remember its own actions in devaluing Parliament. By doing so, they seek to escape from accountability," Mr. Yechury said, while pointing out that under the Modi government, 326 people had been arrested under the sedition law but only six convicted. "This is gross abuse of the law," he said.

CPI general secretary D. Raja called it a vindication of his long-held position. "In 2011 itself, I moved a Private Member's Bill in the Rajya Sabha for abolishing Section 124A. Criticism is what makes democracy healthy," he tweeted.

Trinamool Congress leader and Lok Sabha member, Mahua Moitra, who was one of the petitioners in the case, tweeted: "Victory!"

SC slams govt. claim in Perarivalan case

"Please enlighten us about the constitutional provision which enables the Governor to refer a pardon plea filed under Article 161 to the President," Justices Rao and Gavai, accompanied by Justice A.S. Bopanna on the Bench, asked the Centre.

Mr. Natraj replied that the Tamil Nadu government had tried to "usurp" the power of the President and the Centre to decide on the question of pardon.

"The power was conferred on us [the Centre] to advise the President on the question of pardon," Mr. Natraj replied defensively.

"By that analogy, if a pardon is sought in a murder case, the Governor should refer it to the President," Justice Gavai asked.

Perarivalan was sentenced to life sentence for murder. Terrorism charges were earlier withdrawn.

Justice Rao intervened, asking why the Centre was representing the Governor in the case. "What is your *locus standi* to represent the Governor," he asked.

Mr. Natraj reasoned that the Governor was a constitutional office. "And when the system is not functioning as per the constitutional mandate, anybody can bring it to the notice of the court," the lawyer argued.

"The Governor is the head of the State. He represents the State concerned. If at all somebody has to speak for the Governor, it will be the State and not the Centre," Justice Rao responded.

Delhi HC delivers split verdict on marital rape

"While marital rape leaves physical scars, it inflicts much deeper scars on the psyche of the victim which remain with her years after the offence has occurred," Justice Shakdher added.

The two judges differed on key issues such as availability of evidence, the importance of consent, whether the court could adjudicate over the issue of marital rape or only the legislature could decide, whether the State's concerns about safeguarding the institution of marriage were valid or not, and whether remedies were available to women survivors of spousal violence in other laws such as the law on domestic violence.

The circumstances

"Consent is not the sole deciding factor. What determines whether or not the sexual act is an offence are the circumstances set forth in Section 375. In other words, circumstances/context determine the nature of consent or its absence," Justice Shankar said.

Probing the issue of consent further, he said, "consent is given as a part of spousal intimacy although the will to engage may be absent."

The judge further noted that by removing the exception, courts will be creating an offence, which is proscribed in law. "Therefore, State's intervention through the legislative route is required to balance individual dignity and prevent the possibility of abuse of legal remedies which may end up harming an individual's dignity/reputation," according to Justice Shankar.

In India, marital rape is not defined in law. The High Court's verdict came on a bunch of petitions, including by NGO RIT Foundation, the All India Democratic Women's Association and a marital rape victim.

Now, bail is rule in Section 124A cases

A person cannot be incarcerated or charged under a currently non-existent penal provision

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court order on Wednesday to keep court proceedings under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code in abeyance has the effect of temporarily erasing the colonial provision from the statute book while the Union re-examines it.

The court has made it clear that it has suspended Section 124A in its present form until further orders. Persons against whom fresh cases are filed under Section 124A while the provision is being re-examined by the Union can seek bail using the Supreme Court's order.

With this order, bail in Section 124A cases has become the rule. A person cannot be incarcerated or charged under a currently non-existent penal provision.

> The court has made its intent clear. It does not want a single person booked under Section 124A to be kept in prison while the reconsideration of the law is happening
>
> KALEESWARAM RAJ
> Advocate

"The court has made its intent clear. It does not want a single person booked under Section 124 to be kept in prison while the reconsideration of the law is happening," advocate Kaleeswaram Raj, who represents senior journalist Shashi Kumar in the case, said.

Trial lawyers like Madhuvan Dutt Chaturvedi and Tanvir Ahmed Mir, speaking to *The Hindu*, agreed the order would throw open the door to freedom for accused charged with Section 124A and languishing behind bars without hope for bail.

However, they also pointed out that for many like activist Umar Khalid, student leader Sharjeel Imam and journalist Siddique Kappan, who face other serious charges, including under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, alongside sedition, the court order may hardly pave a way out of prison.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal informed the court that about 13,000 persons are in jail under Section 124A alone.

Even the Centre, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, had proposed expeditious bail hearings for people who have been victims of the abuse of the sedition law by local police and authorities.

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal, appearing in the capacity of his constitutional office to assist the court, had specifically cited instances of misuse of the sedition law by State governments.

Chief Justice Ramana's Bench has, in a quick and deft stroke, protected civil liberties from local police and civil authorities who may continue to use Section 124A regardless of the Union's "re-examination process".

'Prone to misuse'

An anomalous situation would have arisen where people continue to suffer deprivations even as both the Supreme Court and the Centre agree that the sedition law was prone to misuse. In this context, the court has also rejected the government's suggestions to frame guidelines to stop the misuse.

The court had orally observed that guidelines hardly work at the "ground level" with local police officers and civil authorities.

Wednesday's order resembles a January 2021 order passed by the Supreme Court in the farm laws case.

In that order, the court stayed the three controversial farm laws and allowed deliberations on the laws to start while making sure that "no farmer shall be dispossessed or deprived of his titles as a result of any action taken under the farm laws."

If the court had protected the farmers rights against laws debated in and enacted by Parliament, it has now protected individual rights against Section 124A, a provision which pre-dates the Constitution itself.

Amnesty hails SC's decision on sedition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amnesty International India on Wednesday said the Supreme Court's decision to suspend the sedition law was a welcome step and that the government should repeal the law.

The chair of AII's Board, Aakar Patel, said: "We welcome the SC's order to suspend the sedition law until the Government of India re-examines the 152-year-old provision. Sedition has been used as a tool of political repression by successive governments."

He said the order to put a hold on registration of FIRs was a step in the right direction, but as long as the law remains on the books, those speaking out against repression would continue to be punished. "The government should urgently repeal this pernicious legislation," he said.

One militant killed in J&K encounter, say police

Twin gunfights in the Kashmir Valley

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

One militant was killed, as the security forces were engaged in twin gunfights with hiding militants in south and northern districts of the Kashmir Valley on Wednesday.

The police have identified the slain militant as Gulzar Ahmad Ganai, resident of Wussan Pattan, Baramulla.

"He exfiltrated in year 2018 and remained there for three years and six months before infiltrating back in the last week of April," the police said.

Security personnel at the encounter site in Anantnag district. • NISSAR AHMAD

Arms recovered

"One terrorist has been killed. An AK rifle and three magazines recovered from the encounter site in north Kashmir's Bandipora. The killed terrorist was a part of newly infiltrated terror group. A search for other two terrorists is in progress," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

The newly infiltrated group was encircled by the security forces during an anti-militancy operation on Wednesday. "The hiding militants opened heavy fire on the security forces during the gunfight," an official said. Another group of militants, who were hiding, were trapped during an search operation in Marhama belt of Anantnag's Bijbehara area.

"The gunfight is on in the area," the police said.

This is the second encounter in Anantnag in the past 24 hours. Two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants were killed on Tuesday in Anantnag's Dooru area, very close to the National Highway and en route to the Amarnath cave shrine.

Tensions in Bhilwara over man's murder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Tensions prevailed in Bhilwara city in Rajasthan on Wednesday after an incident of stabbing of a 22-year-old man by two persons from another community.

The district administration suspended mobile Internet services for 24 hours in the town to check the spread of rumours and to maintain law and order.

The shops and commercial establishments in Bhilwara remained closed following a bandh call given by some groups. They also staged a demonstration in protest against the late-night incident of May 10, when the young man, a resident of Shastri Nagar locality, was killed near the Kotwali police station. The man was allegedly stabbed to death when he went to resolve a dispute involving his younger brother with some persons belonging to another community.

Members of the groups assembled to demand immediate arrest of accused and assistance for kin of deceased.

Court to decide on survey inside Gyanvapi mosque

It will also decide if advocate commissioner will be replaced

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

A local court in Varanasi on May 12 is expected to decide if an advocate commissioner appointed by it to videograph a 'Hindu site' outside the wall of the Gyanvapi Masjid would be allowed to enter the *tehkhana* (cellar) of the mosque for inspection.

The court would also decide if the advocate commissioner, Ajay Kumar Mishra, would be replaced after the caretakers of the Gyanvapi Masjid alleged that he was acting in a "biased" manner.

The video inspection was halted on the first day after the mosque committee objected to the demand by the Hindu plaintiffs that the advocate commissioner be allowed inside the mosque and its cellar.

A Civil judge had appointed the court commissioner after five women plaintiffs linked to a right-wing group Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh in April filed a suit declaring that they were entitled to have daily darshan, pooja of Maa Shringar Gauri and other "visible and invisible deities within the old temple complex" situated at settlement plot no. 9130 in the Dashwamedh area.

They had also demanded that an advocate commissioner conduct a local inspection of the site and ascertain the existence of the image of deities at the plot.

While the court order did not specifically state if the inspection would include videography inside the Gyanvapi Masjid and its cellar, its caretakers asserted that they objected to any videography inside the mosque and inside the barricades.

Security personnel outside the court during hearing of the Gyanvapi mosque survey case, in Varanasi, on May 10. • PTI

Shivam Gaur, a lawyer for the Hindu plaintiffs, told *The Hindu* they wanted a clarification specifically "if the *tehkhana* would be opened and inspection allowed inside it." Sayid Yasin, joint secretary of the Anjuman Intejamia Masajid, the caretaker of the mosque, said their objection was that the court commissioner should not be allowed to enter the mosque and its barricades.

Tablighi case: Centre firm on 'blacklisting'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday argued in the Supreme Court that entry into and remaining in a sovereign country contrary to its visa conditions and domestic protocol cannot be sought as a fundamental right.

The Centre was replying to a challenge to its decision to blacklist foreign nationals who had allegedly violated government protocol by participating in the Tablighi Jamaat programme during the pandemic.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told a Bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar that the right to enter a sovereign country, contrary to the law of that nation, can never be traceable to Article 21 of the Constitution.

Arguing that the petitions in the top court were "not maintainable" per se, Mr. Mehta suggested that the petitioners could instead make a representation to the authority for revocation of the blacklisting.

"Right to remain in India contrary to the prohibition of the government can never be traceable to right to life and personal liberty. Their personal liberty is not curtailed by blacklisting," the law officer argued.

Centre's concern on marital rape is legitimate: judge

'In a marriage, conjugal expectation is a two-way street'

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The Centre's concern that criminalising marital rape may destabilise the institution of marriage is a "legitimate" one and doing so may require spouses to draw up a detailed agreement before sex or invite a third party to act as witnesses, Delhi High Court judge Justice C. Hari Shankar said as he declined to strike down the marital rape exception in a split verdict delivered on Wednesday.

In a marriage, conjugal expectation is a two-way street, where "consent is given as a part of spousal intimacy although the will to engage may be absent", he said.

Detailed agreement

If every such case is treated as marital rape, "then the only way partners in a marriage may survive would be by drawing up a detailed written agreement and the steps to be observed for courtship or mating or, by creating a detailed evidentiary record of every act of intimacy and/or by inviting a third party to act as a witness – none of which is healthy for the survival of the institution of marriage."

He disagreed with the argument that consent alone mattered and marriage changed nothing, and said that marriage was accompanied by obligations that the partners had to bear, including conjugal expectations, financial obligations and, finally, duty towards progeny.

C. Hari Shankar

"Therefore, the legislature has consciously avoided using the word rape in the context of spousal relationships, not to protect the spouse but those connected with them, namely, families and the progeny," the judge said. Harping on the importance of conjugal rights in marriage, the judge said that the same was recognised in the Hindu Marriage Act, which provided for restitution of conjugal rights. "The remedy is available to both spouses and denial of sex by either spouse is construed as cruelty and, thus, is available as a ground for divorce."

He also underlined the signs of injury on a partner need not necessarily mean there had been non-consensual sex as "in the age of sexual liberation", injuries could be a sign of "passion". He was referring to sadomasochistic sex.

"Forced sexual intercourse between a husband and wife cannot be treated as rape. At worst, it can be treated as sexual abuse as is clear upon perusal of the definition of 'cruelty' found in Section 3 of the D.V. Act. A wife cannot prescribe a particular punishment that can be imposed on the husband 'to satisfy her ego'," the judge said.

The definition

Section 3 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 provides a definition for domestic violence, which includes physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse.

The judge felt that the issue of marital rape required consideration of social, cultural and legal aspects and the wisdom of the legislature needed to be respected and decisions on the matter should be left to Parliament.

The Centre in Parliament and before court has repeatedly maintained that marital rape will destabilise the institution of marriage and sought wider consultations. Recently, MinisterSmriti Irani told Parliament that it was wrong to condemn all marriages as violent .

Case of 'Khalistan flag' cracked, one held: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Himachal Pradesh Police on Wednesday claimed to have cracked the case of putting up 'Khalistan' flags on the main gate and boundary walls of the State Legislative Assembly premises, by arresting one of the accused, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said.

'Accused had confessed'

"The State Police have made a major breakthrough in the Dharamsala State Assembly episode by apprehending one accused [person] from the neighbouring State of Punjab this morning [Wednesday]," he said. Mr. Thakur said the arrested person had been identified as Harvir Singh and the accused had confessed to having put up the 'Khalistani flag' and graffiti on the outer wall of the Vidhan Sabha complex in Kangra district.

He said that the search for the second accused person, Vaneet Singh was on

On Sunday, a few 'Khalistan' flags were hung on the main gate and boundary walls of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly premises, after which the police booked leader of the banned Sikhs for Justice Gurpatwant Singh Pannu under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Woman suffers 'panic attack' after missing flight

Air India says passenger reported late

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A woman apparently suffered a panic attack and collapsed at a boarding gate at Delhi airport after she and others travelling with her missed their Air India flight last week. The airline has said that all of them reported late for their flight.

"We were three people at the airport and there were some technical issues going on at the security check-in point. Additionally, we had a heart and diabetic lady patient with us. We already communicated (with) Air India staff to help us," according to a post on Instagram from the handle the_time_traveller. The author also claimed that his aunt suffered a panic attack and fainted at the spot.

Air India denied these allegations in a response on Twitter. "The three passengers reported after the boarding gate had closed even after our staff kept calling them to report before closure," it said.

Chintan Shivir to focus on making Congress battle-ready

No anti-BJP front can work without a strong Congress, says a senior party leader

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Cosmetic change in the Congress will not work and the focus of the three-day *Nav Sankalp chintan shivir* (brainstorming session) at Udaipur will be on making it battle-ready for the 2024 Lok Sabha election with an implementable action plan, a senior leader of the party said on Wednesday.

The brainstorming session, beginning on May 13, will send out a clear message that no anti-BJP front can work nationally without the Congress getting stronger ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

Though the focus of the *chintan shivir* will be on organisational reforms with fixed timelines and responsibilities assigned, the party source said the leadership issue too is expected to come up, as 99% of the participants are likely to reiterate their demand for Rahul Gandhi to take over as the party chief.

As *The Hindu* reported on Monday after the meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), discussions on key organisational changes will include the proposal to have a separate body to manage elections, an elected CWC, one ticket per family, and higher representations for disadvantaged sections such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities for party posts and so on.

Sonia Gandhi will open the conclave in Udaipur and Rahul Gandhi will make the closing remarks. • FILE PHOTO

The party is holding the Udaipur meet after a string of electoral defeats, including in the recent Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa. "No cosmetic change will work as we face an unprecedented and a unique situation," said the leader, adding that the mandate is to make the conclave meaningful and make the Udaipur declaration actionable.

The last such conclave was held in Jaipur in 2013 when Mr. Gandhi was elevated as the party's vice-president and the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance was in power.

The earlier sessions were held in Pachmarhi in 1998 and Shimla in 2003, and focused on strengthening the party and subsequently altering the party's position on alliances.

"The message is clear that if the Congress is weak, any coalition of non-BJP forces cannot happen. But if the Congress is strong, the alliance too will be strong," the strategist said. "We need to revive and rebuild to gain a place of prominence at the centre of any potential anti-BJP alliance."

Over 422 participants will be divided into six groups, each group having about 70 members, to discuss and come up with solutions on key issues, including communal polarisation, Centre-State relations, forming of alliances, inflation, unemployment and privatisation of profitable public sector undertakings.

The conclave will begin with remarks by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on May 13. The valedictory address will be delivered by Rahul Gandhi on May 15.

Modi's visit to Lumbini will be significant, says Nepal's envoy

Prime Minister to visit the country for Buddha Purnima

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Nepal will be a significant development, Kathmandu's envoy Shankar Prasad Sharma said on Wednesday.

Speaking to *The Hindu* after presenting his credentials to President Ram Nath Kovind, Ambassador Sharma said Nepal had taken up all the bilateral issues during the visit by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to Delhi and Varanasi last month.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lord Buddha's birthplace Lumbini is currently being planned (by the Indian side). It is my aim to take this important bilateral relation to new heights," Mr. Sharma said.

He had a courtesy meeting with Mr. Kovind that followed the ceremony of presenting of credentials.

"While highlighting the age-old relations, the Ambassador thanked the Government and people of India for the continued support in various sectors, including connectivity, defence, post-earthquake rescue, relief and reconstruction," the Embassy of Nepal said in a statement after the ceremony.

Warm welcome: President Ram Nath Kovind with Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal, in New Delhi. • PTI

The formal event is important as it comes four days before the visit of Mr. Modi to Lumbini on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

India has been focusing on the Buddhist community worldwide as part of its soft power and this year Buddha Purnima would be marked by the presence of Mr. Modi in Lumbini. The focus on Lumbini has been part of the vision of the "Buddhist Circuit" of the Indian government, which has presented India as the land of the Buddha. The "Buddhist Circuit" and India's soft power regarding Buddhism acquires significance because of a number of reasons, including the dynamic situation in Buddhism-dominated regions in Southeast Asia and Tibet that are part of India's core strategic concerns.

Kejriwal seeks 'a chance' in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, at a rally in Rajkot on Wednesday, reiterated his appeal to voters to give one chance to the Aam Aadmi Party in Gujarat. He showcased the works of the Delhi government in the fields of education and health, while providing power at affordable rates.

He also promised free electricity and better schools and hospitals if the AAP formed the next government in Gujarat where the Assembly polls are scheduled later this year.

"In Delhi, people have shifted their children back to government schools. We have seen hundreds of children from Delhi's schools cracking IIT entrance exams and joining various IITs for higher education," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"The BJP is the party of rich people and therefore it would allow private schools for rich but what about poor who cannot afford those schools," he said.

This was Mr. Kejriwal's second poll rally in Gujarat in as many weeks.

Book exploring Modi's journey over two decades launched

At the release, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu says even the PM's detractors have to concede that he is a 'phenomenon'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a "phenomenon" and that it was a point that even his detractors had to concede.

Mr. Naidu was speaking after he released the book *Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery*, a collection of essays on Mr. Modi on his completion of 20 years of helming governments, first as Chief Minister of Gujarat and later as Prime Minister of India.

Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Mr. Modi's former Principal Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Nripendra Mishra, were present on the occasion.

Mr. Naidu said that under Mr. Modi's government, India had gained respect and recognition worldwide. Terming Mr. Modi as one of the most popular and iconic leaders of modern India, the Vice-President said he was an example of the master craftmanship of working hard, who not only dreamt big for the country but also persevered in implementing his plans to uplift the poor.

"Prime Minister Modi has given a three-line mantra – reform, perform, transform – and he is living up to it," Mr. Naidu said.

Word power: Amit Shah, M. Venkaiah Naidu and S. Jaishankar at the launch of *Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery*. • PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that to understand Mr. Modi's achievements over the past 20 years, people should study the three previous decades during which he entered into social and public service, travelled extensively, and understood the problems of the people. It was about the journey of a man from a humble background, who started out as a part of the organisation, worked hard as a party worker, and rose up to become Prime Minister of the country.

Describing his personal traits, Mr. Shah said Mr. Modi was a "great listener; [a] creative thinker who believed in setting high goals and achieving maximum output". It was reflected in his policies of cleanliness, building toilets, and taking potable water, electricity and cooking gas to each household.

"Under him, people's faith in multi-party democratic system got stronger," Mr. Shah said.

Mr. Jaishankar said that under Mr. Modi's leadership, foreign policy was security focused, development focused and people-centric. The country's foreign policy was that of a "civilisational State", he stated.

Mr. Modi had made terrorism the centre of global debate, taken efforts to attract investments, and bring in best practices and technology from different parts of the world, the External Affairs Minister said.

The Vande Bharat mission, Operation Ganga, and Operation Devi Shakti evacuation missions had instilled faith among Indians abroad that the Indian government would come to their aid in any crisis. It had also brought a huge change in the view that the world had about India, Mr. Jaishankar stated.

Sena targets Somaiya over 'illegal donations'

Sanjay Raut flags firm under probe

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Targeting Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kirit Somaiya for allegedly extorting money under the guise of donations, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that the funds came from companies under the scanner of Central agencies.

On Tuesday, Mr. Raut alleged that an NGO named 'Yuvak Pratishthan' controlled by the Somaiyas received funds from Motilal Oswal, a stock broking company and a financial services firm, which was quizzed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in relation to the ₹5,600-crore National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) scam.

"Mr. Somaiya took lakhs of rupees in donation from Motilal Oswal in 2018-19 for his Yuvak Pratishthan," said Mr. Raut, continuing his attack on the BJP leader. Mr. Somaiya has been accusing the Sena leaders of financial fraud and claiming that many of the party leaders will be jailed soon.

Faced with the allegations, Mr. Somaiya, who is in Delhi, said that he will be visiting officials there on Tuesday. He however did not specify which agency he would visit.

Former Union Minister and Cong. leader Pandit Sukh Ram is no more

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Former Union Minister and a Congress stalwart in Himachal Pradesh politics Pandit Sukh Ram passed away on Wednesday. He was 94.

His grandson Aashray Sharma shared a picture on Twitter with the words, "End of an era, goodbye grandfather. Now the phone will not ring." Mr. Sukh Ram was credited with leading a telecom revolution in the country when he was Minister of Communications and Information Technology from 1993 to 1996.

Sukh Ram, 94, was under treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi, where he was admitted on May 7.

Pandit Sukh Ram

Mr. Sukh Ram suffered a stroke in Manali on May 4, following which he was admitted to a local hospital. He was later flown to the AIIMS here in a government helicopter.

He won the Himachal Assembly elections five times and the Lok Sabha elections thrice.

In 2011, he was sentenced to five years of imprisonment for corruption when he was Communications Minister in 1996.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur expressed deep grief over the demise.

"I am saddened to hear the news of the death of former Union Minister and senior leader Pandit Sukh Ram ji from Mandi. He made an important contribution in the political field, which will always be remembered," he said.

Babul Supriyo sworn in as MLA

Oath administered by West Bengal Deputy Speaker Asish Banerjee

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Nearly four weeks after getting elected to the State Assembly, former MP and Union Minister Babul Supriyo was on Wednesday administered oath as an MLA by West Bengal's Deputy Speaker Asish Banerjee. This brought to an end weeks of conflict between the Raj Bhavan and the West Bengal Legislative Assembly over who would administer the oath.

Usually, it is the Speaker of the Assembly who administers oath to newly elected MLAs. According to sources, the Speaker, Biman Banerjee, had convinced the Deputy Speaker to administer the oath.

Mr. Supriyo's past association with the BJP posed a challenge as he contested polls on Trinamool Congress ticket in a minority-dominated seat. Mr. Supriyo won the Ballygunge bypoll by a margin of 20,228 votes over CPI(M) candidate Saira Shah Halim. The bypoll was held on April 12 and the result was announced on April 16.

Trinamool Congress leader Babul Supriyo, left, with West Bengal's Deputy Speaker Asish Banerjee.

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar had gone public in the last week of April, tweeting, "Reports in section of media re: oath @SuPriyo-Babul as MLA misleading. Under Article 188 of the Constitution, he has to make & subscribe oath before 'Governor, or some person appointed in that behalf by him'. Urgent response sought on issues @itspcofficial is awaited from WBLA." The Twitter account of State's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Partha Chatterjee is @itspcofficial.

With the Governor not budging from his stand, the Speaker decided that the Deputy Speaker should administer the oath.

"I cannot change history but will work for the people of Ballygunje," Mr. Supriyo told reporters.

The singer-turned-politician said that he wanted to quit politics last year after resigning as BJP MP from Asansol but West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee advised him not to do so.

Prior to this, Mr. Supriyo was dropped from the Union Council of Ministers.

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SPECIAL PROJECT CIRCLE-II, CHENNAI-40.
TENDER NOTICE NO: SPC-II . 010 / 2022 - 2023 Dated: 10.05.2022

Sealed pre-qualification tenders in two cover system are invited for the following work by the Superintending Engineer, Special Project Circle-II, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, C-48,Anna Nagar, Chennai –600040.

Sl. No.	Description of work	Approximate value Rs.	EMD Amount Rs.
1.	Development work such as filling low lying area providing on site cc road and culverts, storm water drain etc for the construction of 6877 EWS flats (Stilt+13floors) in block no 8 T.S No 2 at Erainavoor village , Thiruvallur district	1950.00 Lakhs	10,00,000/-

Last Date for receipt of above tenders **14.06.2022 upto 11.00 am.**, Date of Opening of tender **14.06.2022 at 11.30 am.**, Date of availability of tender document **06.06.2022 to 13.06.2022 at 1.00 PM**. Cost of tender document **Rs.15,750/-** including GST.

CONDITIONS FOR ISSUE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS: 1. The Contractors registered (the registration certificate should be reclassified and renewed upto date) under class-I in TNHB, PWD, TMPHC, TNSCB and other Government / Quasi Government Departments with appropriate monitory limit are eligible to participate in the tender. 2. The tenderer should have executed similar nature of works costing more than 50% of the Value of work put to tender, in a single contract with the last 5 years period. A certificate from the concerned department not below the rank of Superintending Engineer / Executive Engineer Should be furnished. 3.The undersigned reserves right to reject / cancel the tender without assigning any reason therefore. 4.Further particulars and tender documents can be had from the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Special Project Circle II, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Anna Nagar, Chennai –600 040. 5.The tender schedule can also be downloaded from the website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** at free of cost. If there are any corrections /omissions in the tender it will be updated in the website only.

DIPR/220/TENDER/2022 **Superintending Engineer/SPC-II**

NOTICE INVITING e- TENDER
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2022-23/DRUGS-AYUSH-UNANI/10 Date:12/05/2022

Online Bids are invited through **e-Tender portal** (**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**) from eligible bidders for **supply of Unani medicines from the PSU Pharmacies under State Govt. and Co-Operatives.** The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in** and the **last date for submission of online bid will be 08.06.2022, 6.00 PM.** The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Managing Director,
OSMC Ltd., Odisha

CAD-489 OIPR-10112/11/0006/2223

NOTICE INVITING e- TENDER
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2022-23/DRUGS-AYUSH-UNANI/09 Date :12/05/2022

Online Bids are invited through **e-Tender portal** (**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**) from eligible bidders for **SUPPLY OF UNANI DRUGS FROM THE GMP HOLDERS OTHER THAN M/s I.M.P.C.L, P.S.Us, PHARMACIES UNDER STATE GOVT. AND CO-OPERATIVES**. The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites : **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** and the **last date for submission of online bid will be 08.06.2022, 6.00 PM.** The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Managing Director,
OSMC Ltd., Odisha

CAD-490 OIPR-10112/11/0008/2223

TAMIL NADU UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES CORPORATION

NOTIFICATION

Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Corporation (TNUAVC) is planning to recruit the Technical staff on-contract basis and Empanelment of Drone related Companies for Drone Products and Services. The detailed notification has been updated in our website (**www.tnuavcorp.com**). The Eligible candidates and companies may submit their applications on or before **25.05.2022** by **5.00 PM** as per provided format.

DIPR/455/Display/2022 **Managing Director, TNUAVC**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-tenders are invited for procurement of certain category of **Mahaprasadam Covers, Straw Boards, Corrugated Boxes etc., to TTD Press.** For Tender Notice & details, please see the NIT, Roc.No.TTD-44021(34)/4/2022-PRESS SEC-ITD. Please log on to the website **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.ap.eprocurement. gov.in.** For further details contact: **0877-2264355** (or) **0877-2264292** (or) **Cell No.99639 55585.**

Roc.No.PR4/13942/Adv.No.50/PRO/2022, Dated:10-05-2022 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)

Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No. and Description of works / Materials	Due date & time for Submission of e-Tender
1	CEI MECH/ COAL	Coal (Ship)-110 / Dated.10.05.2022. ITEM 1 : ONE SELF-TRIMMING PANAMAX / KAMSARMAX GEARLESS VESSEL WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 1ST to 15TH JUNE 2022 FOR 0+3 MONTHS CHOPTION +/- 1 MONTH CHOPTION . ITEM 2: ONE SELF-TRIMMING PANAMAX /KAMSARMAX GEARLESS VESSEL WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 16TH TO 30TH JUNE 2022 FOR 0+3 MONTHS CHOPTION +/-1 MONTH CHOPTION.	23.05.2022 up to 14.30 Hours

The tender Specification can be down loaded from websites, **www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** at free of cost. Tender will be opened through the **NIC portal.**

CHIEF ENGINEER/MECHANICAL/COAL

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management-1,
Dasappa Hospital Building, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE-3/SWM/TEND/02/2022-23 Date: 11-05-2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)-(SHORT TERM)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management Division, invites bids on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible bidders for the construction of works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Construction of Retaining Wall at Doddabidarakallu Municipal Solid Waste Processing Plant.	69.60	1.40
2	Solid Waste Management Infrastructure Development Works in Rajarajeshwarinagar Constituency.	340.00	5.10

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 13-05-2022. 2)** Last Date for Uploading Queries on **19-05-2022 upto 3.00 PM. 3) Pre Bid Meeting on 20-05-2022 at 4.00 PM. 4)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders on **31-05-2022 upto 4.00 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bids on **02-06-2022 after 4.00 PM or next working day.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

B.V. Doshi receives Royal Gold Medal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Noted architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi has been conferred with the prestigious Royal Gold Medal 2022, which is considered the world's highest honour for architecture.

The president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Simon Allford, presented the medal to the renowned architect in person at his residence in Ahmedabad.

The Royal Gold Medal is approved personally by Queen Elizabeth and is given to people who have had a significant influence on the advancement of architecture.

The 94-year-old architect is among the rare people to have been awarded both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize in their lifetime.

Mr. Doshi has been conferred the prestigious medal in recognition of his architectural achievements.

CBI arrests six officials, eight others in FCRA bribery case

Arrests come after the agency conducted searches in many States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested four current and two former officials of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) division of the Union Home Ministry, along with eight others, for allegedly facilitating illegal clearances to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) under the Act, in lieu of bribes.

The arrested include Parmod Kumar Bhasin and Alok Ranjan, formerly with the FCRA division, and its current officials Raj Kumar, Saheed Khan, Mohammed Ghazanfar Ali and Tushar Kanti Roy. Among the private persons are an NGO representative, "hawala" operators, two directors of the consultancy firm Shaurya Business Solutions and a chartered accountant.

On Tuesday, the agency searched the premises of public servants, representatives of NGOs, middlemen and "hawala" operators in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Manipur. It seized about ₹3.21 crore in cash.

In the case, registered on a complaint from the Union Home Ministry, the agency has named 36 persons, including seven government officials. Uma Shankar of the National Informatics Centre has also been named.

On Tuesday, the agency searched the premises of public servants, representatives of NGOs. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Among the other accused are promoters of NGO Omidyar; S. Rajasekaran of Ganga Medical Centre and Hospital Private Ltd,; Chinappan Pichai Pillai of Ayries Multipurpose Social Service Society; Ramaswamy Ranganathan of Centre for Tribal & Rural Development Trust; Shafi Mohammad of Jahangirabad Educational Trust; and Mansi International Private Ltd. Alfred Mohanty of Christian Life Centre Ministries; Kathera Suresh Kumar of Harvest India; Lungawirul Khawbung of Reformed Presbyterian Church North East India; and Bishnu Mour of Nayi Roshni Foundation have also been named.

It is alleged that the public servants conspired with the promoters or representatives of various NGOs and middlemen to illegally facilitate FCRA registration or renewal, apart from other related works. The two former FCRA officials impersonated as unit employees and received bribes from the NGOs in question.

Hawala channel

According to the first information report (FIR), the accused Parmod Kumar Bhasin, who was earlier posted with the FCRA unit, approached representatives of several NGOs for bribes, which he received through the "hawala" channel. He had roped in one Anish Selvaraj for contacting the prospective Tamil Nadu-based organisations.

Alok Ranjan allegedly conspired with the co-accused Ravi Shankar Ambastha and Manoj Kumar B.A. to get bribes. They were also running Immaculate Global Consultants (IGC) and ASRA Foundation. Rajan was channelling the ill-gotten money into Mansi International Private Ltd. being jointly managed by his wife, the FIR said.

A similar racket was allegedly being run by Santosh Kumar Prasad and his wife Arnita Chandra, both directors of Shaurya Business Solutions, in conspiracy with accused FCRA official Tushar Kanti Roy.

As alleged, one Devesh Chandra Mishra had contacted Roy to get permission for receiving foreign remittance worth ₹3 crore in donation for an NGO named Omidyar.

The official initially demanded 10% of the total remittance.

However, Mishra told him that the NGO promoters were ready to pay ₹5 lakh. The official then asked for at least 7% of the foreign donation.

Probe agency names Omidyar Network promoters in FIR

NGO is a major financier of news websites, think tanks

VIJAITA SINGH
DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

A year after the U.S.-based philanthropic investment firm Omidyar Network was placed on a watch list by the Union Home Ministry, restricting all foreign donations from the firm, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) named the "promoters of NGO Omidyar" in a first information report (FIR) filed on May 10.

The case pertains to alleged connivance of Ministry officials and private consultants in facilitating illegal clearances to NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. The list of accused mentions "promoters of NGO Omidyar", without specifics. Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), it is mandatory for NGOs to get clearance to receive foreign funds.

News portals' investor

Omidyar has invested in prominent news websites such as Newslaundry, Scroll and The Ken and provided grants to think tanks, institutions and advocacy groups such as the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), Ashoka University and Centre for Policy Research.

According to Omidyar's website, it supported NITI Aayog during the design phase of the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) by supporting a team for the Program Management Unit (PMU), led by IDinsight, and Development Data Lab.

The FIR alleges that on April 24, Devesh Chandra Mishra, a resident of Delhi, contacted FCRA official Tushar Kanti Roy "for clearing of permission for receiving foreign remittance worth ₹3 crore as donation for an NGO namely Omidyar".

The accused official assured him of arranging the permission but "demanded 10% of the total remittance as bribe".

Mishra told the official that "the promoters of NGO Omidyar were ready to pay ₹5 lakh". Finally, the official is said to have demanded at least 7% of the foreign donation in bribe stating that he had to give money to others as well.

The public relation firm handling Omidyar's account did not respond to *The Hindu*'s e-mail request for a comment on the CBI's allegation.

The Ministry has identified at least three consultants who were offering various services pertaining to the FCRA to NGOs. The alleged racket in connivance with former and present officials was running for the past six months.

'Facilitation' services

Explaining the *modus operandi*, a senior government official said, "The consultants were found offering facilitation services to the NGOs for renewal of their registration for a fee. They obtained information from the Ministry officials on where the NGO's file was stuck in the system. They contacted the said NGO and offered speedy renewal against a fee."

The official said the smaller NGOs were being charged ₹2 lakh each while there was a different rate list for the bigger associations that could go up to ₹15 lakh. The racket was exposed when one of the NGOs that was approached by the consultants complained to the Ministry officials.

The website of one of the consultants under the CBI's scanner – Shaurya Business Solutions Pvt Ltd – has a separate section on the FCRA, offering services such as renewal of registration, filing annual returns and even fresh registration.

NGO worried over rise in gender-based violence

'98% victims don't access healthcare'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

It is worrying that over 98% of gender-based violence (GBV) survivors do not access healthcare, though such experiences may have long-term physical and psychological consequences, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) said in a statement released on Wednesday on the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-V) data on GBV.

"This latest data reflect a dismal state in the practice of seeking medical care post gender-based violence, including sexual violence. Current estimates reflect that healthcare-seeking behaviour (HSB) among the survivors is still near zero," said the statement.

The MSF emphasised that over 98% of gender-based violence survivors, as recorded in the new survey data, do not access healthcare due to the absence of comprehensive medical care available in close proximity to vulnerable groups, as well as the fear of mandatory police reporting. "The uptake of medical care is essential as sexual violence and intimate partner violence have well-documented, long-term physical and psychological consequences. Women exposed to sexual and physical violence need immediate medical care to prevent pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and mental health support to reduce psychological distress and restore dignity," Himanshu M. of MSF said.

The group added that several studies in India indicate that the suffering of survivors is only compounded further by lack of knowledge of health consequences, lack of social and family support to access health services, fear of stigma and shame by society, fear of undignified treatment by healthcare workers, among others. It said that since family and friends become the first point of contact for survivors, as demonstrated by NFHS-V data, it is imperative that their capacities are built. Out of all the women surveyed, only 14% came out to seek help, but 77% never spoke about the abuse or sought help.

DRI seizes 55 kg of heroin at Delhi airport

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 62 kg of heroin from an air cargo consignment at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport and other places.

On Tuesday, the agency initially found 55 kg of heroin concealed in an imported consignment, declared to be of trolley bags. The cargo, which had originated from Entebbe in Uganda, had arrived in Delhi via Dubai. The consignment had 330 trolley bags and the heroin was concealed inside the hollow metal tubes of 126 bags.

Swift follow-up operations in Punjab and Haryana led to further seizure of another 7 kg of the stuff and ₹50 lakh in cash. "The value of the 62-kg seized heroin is estimated at ₹434 crore in the illicit market," the agency said.

Since January, it has made significant seizures, including 34 kg from a container at the Inland Container Depot in Tughlaqabad, 205 kg from the Kandla port and 392 kg at the Pipavav port.

Build social protection system: Satyarthi

He wants such a mechanism in low-income nations for children, women

RAMYA KANNAN
CHENNAI

Nobel laureate and crusader for the rights of children Kailash Satyarthi is headed to the fifth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Durban, South Africa, from May 15 to 20. His trajectory for the future though is to build support for an international social protection mechanism for all children and pregnant women in all low-income countries, and he is campaigning vigorously for this among the world leaders.

> **During the pandemic situation, we calculated that $53 million annually could ensure social protection for all children in all low-income countries, as well as pregnant women too**
> KAILASH SATYARTHI, Noble prize winner and Child Rights activist

In an interaction with *The Hindu* over a video call, Mr. Satyarthi clarified his plans. "I'm working in collaboration with a number of other lobbyists, not only [Nobel] Peace laureates, but also experts from other disciplines; we are demanding the setting up of an international social protection mechanism. We have seen in a number of countries, including in India, where social protection schemes such as the mid-day meals, conditional cash transfer or the MGNREGA are in operation, much has been done towards addressing problems, such as child labour or child safety and trafficking, but also towards empowering women," he explained.

"During the pandemic situation, we calculated that $53 million annually could ensure social protection for all children in all low income countries, as well as pregnant women too," Mr. Satyarthi continued. "That is not a big deal in the sense it could be mobilised. We have got good responses from number of countries in the European Union," he said. Recently, he also met with some top officials in the White House, USAID, and lawmakers, Congressmen and Senators to mobilise support for such a fund.

The issue of growing child labour numbers has Mr. Satyarthi very worried. "We know that due to the pandemic, 200 million additional people are being pushed into chronic poverty, as per the World Bank report. Additionally, 60 million people will be pushed into acute poverty or chronic poverty due to the Russian invasion on Ukraine. Their children would definitely be the worst victims and many of them could be forced into child labour and trafficking and so on," he said.

The demand is simply also, at one level, to seek enforcement of existing laws, and investment in education. He pointed out that at the basic level, children in marginalised sections in low-income countries need swift, immediate and direct support, which it's not possible to allocate without mobilising resources globally.

"Universal social protection programmes for children should be the part of the agenda in the future. I'm afraid to say, as one of the UN Secretary General's advocate on on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), that we cannot accomplish any of the targets," Mr. Satyarthi insisted. "So we have been pushing this with several governments, in the G7 and G20 as well. If social protection, focusing on marginalised children, figures somewhere the discussions in these two communities that will be huge."

The issue is "urgent", he presses, given that there has been an increase in child labour for the first time in the last two decades globally, and that is very alarming and very concerning. "It is true that the number had been decreasing for sometime, and we have been celebrating it too. However, it is not just the pandemic that is responsible. We have noticed it even before the pandemic also. We have all committed ourselves to eradicate child labour by 2025," he added.

ED arrests Jharkhand official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday arrested Jharkhand Mining Secretary Pooja Singhal in connection with a money laundering case for allegedly embezzling MGNREGA funds in the State.

The agency had earlier summoned Ms. Singhal for questioning at its Ranchi office. The statement of her husband, Abhishek Jha, was also recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, after the ED arrested chartered accountant Suman Kumar following seizure of about ₹18 crore in cash last week.

The ED's probe is based on 16 cases and the respective chargesheet filed by the State's vigilance bureau, alleging MGNREGA funds fraud. During its investigation, the agency also filed a chargesheet against the then junior engineer, Ram Binod Prasad, who in his statement alleged that he had paid a cut to the district administration.

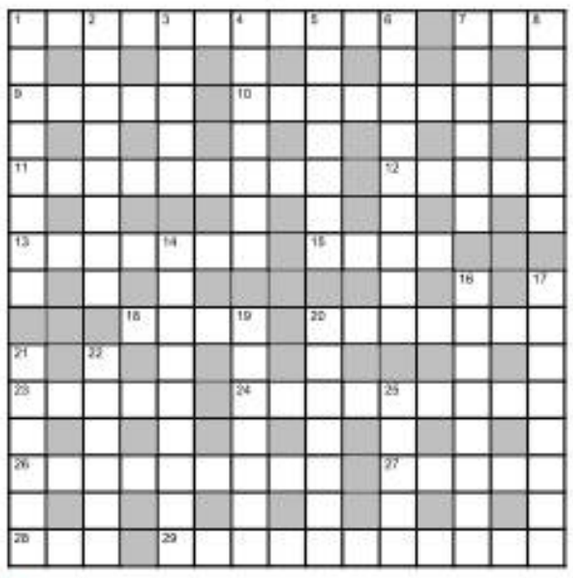
From 2007 to 2013, Ms. Singhal was posted as the Collector of Chatra, Khunti and Palamu.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 13554

(set by Arden)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Beer drinking – want barriers placed before a plant (5,6)
7 Pouch in case some of them return (3)
9 Heard about a quarrel? (5)
10 Sad, gloomy, yet it gives you the origin of a word (9)
11 Instrument to disown every other grant before (9)
12 Sign says "flip inside the cups" (5)
13 Lock jaw's regular tweet before a sunrise (7)
15 Pitcher of the Queen welcoming us (4)
18 Accelerates, going west, it's warm (4)
20 Stirring oration in Canada (7)
23 Bug in PA system, top missing (5)
24 Feeling queasy – starts neatly arranging upright in the chair (9)
26 Tom Nelson becoming drowsy... (9)
27 ... in between Yanks find a plant (5)
28 Crazy to overturn a container (3)
29 Inside story – a hassle to transform a state capital (11)

DOWN

1 Bill of fare – what the French automobile consumed overall (1,2,5)
2 Keeping half the troops in an urban setting is a shocking thing to do (8)
3 Ditch seconds before 15 (5)
4 Watch closer, guards finally give double protection (7)
5 She tops her class, agreed to invest money (7)
6 Pacifying left and right – going through book from bottom to top (9)
7 Cry over name, by being arrogant (6)
8 Able to get back the girl in the Caribbean (6)
14 Girl in the city got to keep a farm animal (9)
16 For youngsters, it's said, they should be part of their diet (8)
17 Street violence is never ending, read about Goa, sadly (4,4)
19 Setter had come in briefly, was well-mannered (7)
20 A unit formed to support work at the plant (7)
21 Chance taking fool goes on a hunt (6)
22 From midnight to midday, cover minute part of the sun dial (6)
25 Two measures taken before a purge (5)

SUDOKU

			9		3			5
						4	2	
5		2	7				1	
6		8			2			
	1						5	
			6			1		8
	2				8	5		7
	8	9						
7			3		9			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13553

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	2	6	9	7	4	3	8
3	9	6	4	8	2	5	1	7
7	8	4	1	3	5	6	2	9
9	4	3	8	1	6	7	5	2
2	6	7	3	5	9	8	4	1
1	5	8	7	2	4	9	6	3
4	7	9	2	6	3	1	8	5
8	3	5	9	4	1	2	7	6
6	2	1	5	7	8	3	9	4

FAITH

Sage of great renown

The aim of the Rama avatar, besides the killing of Ravana, is to establish dharma. During the first ten years of His forest life, Rama enjoys the association with the holy sages. Even as Valmiki captures the serene atmosphere of austerities and rituals in the ashrams of the sages, he also highlights with equal felicity the constant presence of the rakshasas who are a threat to their penance, pointed out Sengalipuram Sri Balaji Bhagavathar in a discourse.

Rama visits the ashram of sage Agastya, the great sage known for his spiritual wisdom and penance. It is held that once the Vindhya mountain ranges had started to grow and obstruct the sun's passage between the north and the south hemispheres. But at the orders of Agastya, the mountain had bent low and has remained so till date. There is also the story of how Agastya put an end to the atrocious behaviour of the two rakshasas, Vatapi and Ilvala. Vatapi had obtained a boon by which his body would always remain strong and intact even if he was cut into pieces.

Ilvala, in the guise of a brahmana, would invite the sages in the ashram one by one to partake of the food for the manes. He would cook the body of Vatapi and offer it to the unsuspecting sages. Once they are done with it and the formalities are over, Ilvala would ask Vatapi to come out and the rakshasa would come out tearing the stomach of the sages. Many rishis had died in this way. But this trick did not work on Agastya as he digested the food which was actually the rakshasa and thereby put an end to this. He also reduced to ashes Ilvala who rushed at him with anger. Rama is welcomed by the sage. He gives Rama many weapons that would be useful to destroy Ravana. He advises them to stay in Panchavati.

'Economy on the brink of total collapse'

If political stability is not restored in Sri Lanka, economy cannot be salvaged, says Central Bank chief

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Central Bank chief on Wednesday warned that the economy would "collapse completely" unless political stability is urgently restored and a new government is appointed to run the crisis-hit country.

Addressing reporters in Colombo, Nandalal Weerasinghe, who assumed charge as Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka just over a month ago, said: "If there is no government in the next two days, the economy will completely collapse, and cannot be salvaged by anyone."

Tight control: Soldiers checking documents of a driver at a checkpoint in Colombo on Wednesday. • AFP

Dire situation

His remarks came as a stark reminder of the dire situation of the island's economy, crashing after a much-neglected Balance of Payments issue over the last two years led to a severe dollar crunch. The country is preoccupied with violent clashes and unrest this week, triggered by Rajapaksa supporters who attacked peaceful protesters demanding the ruling clan's resignation over the economic crisis.

Subsequently, Mahinda Rajapaksa stepped down from Premiership, and the Cabinet stands dissolved constitutionally, with just the President at the helm and no opposition party willing to work under him unconditionally.

The parties, civil society groups, and student organisations have come up with specific proposals that include Mr. Gotabaya's resignation and the abolition of executive presidency.

While the leadership is stuck, with no inclination yet of conceding ground, distressed citizens endure severe food, fuel, and cooking gas shortages as fears of starvation loom. The assault by a pro-Rajapaksa mob and the retaliatory attacks by infuriated citizens have heightened fears of further escalation in violence, even as sporadic incidents are reported.

At least eight persons were killed and about 200 were injured in the clashes. In the widespread counterattacks, arsonists torched over 100 buildings belonging to government members and burnt dozens of vehicles. They checked vehicles on the road looking for "Rajapaksa supporters", and assaulted many, including a senior police officer. They pulled down a statue of the Rajapaksas' father and torched their ancestral home in Hambantota district. An island-wide police curfew is in place, and both military and the police have been given orders to go on the offensive to "contain riots".

Meanwhile, Mr. Mahinda was evacuated from Temple Trees, his official residence in Colombo, and taken to a naval base in the eastern port city of Trincomalee on Tuesday for his "security", according to Kamal Gunaratne, Secretary to the Defence Ministry. Addressing a media conference on Wednesday, he said: "The former PM is at the Naval Dockyard in Trincomalee. He will be there for a few more days. We will provide him with whatever security he needs and for as long as he wants."

As violence intensified, Mr. Mahinda was flown to Trincomalee, some 300 km north-east of capital Colombo, and home to Tamils, Muslims, and Sinhalese. He was not safe in the Sinhala-majority south, where he once commanded much respect and adoration. However, his son Namal Rajapaksa told AFP that his father "will not flee" Sri Lanka.

Amid fears of military rule flagged by some past and present leaders, the Defence Ministry secretary, who was a controversial top field commander during the war, said: "There is no danger of a military coup in Sri Lanka. It is very difficult to do such a thing in this country. I say it with full responsibility."

Army chief Shavendra Silva said troops in armoured personnel carriers were deployed across the island, including in Colombo, to contain violence. "We are using Buffels (armoured cars) to carry our troops," he told reporters, on camouflaged military vehicles being spotted in the capital.

Al Jazeera journalist shot dead during Israel's West Bank raid

The broadcaster, another scribe blame Israel for the killing

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

A female journalist for Al Jazeera was shot and killed while covering an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin early on Wednesday. The broadcaster and a reporter who was wounded in the incident blamed Israeli forces, while Israel claimed there was evidence the two were hit by Palestinian gunfire.

Shooting the messenger: A file photo of Shireen Abu Akleh • AP

Shireen Abu Akleh, a well-known Palestinian reporter for the broadcaster's Arabic language channel who is also a U.S. citizen, was shot and soon died. Ali Samoudi, another Palestinian journalist, was hospitalised.

The Qatar-based network interrupted its broadcast to announce her death. In a statement flashed on its channel, it called on the global community to "condemn and hold the Israeli occupation forces accountable for deliberately targeting and killing our colleague."

"We pledge to prosecute the perpetrators legally, no matter how hard they try to cover up their crime, and bring them to justice," Al Jazeera said.

The Israeli military said its forces came under attack with heavy gunfire and explosives while operating in Jenin, and that they fired back. The military said it was investigating "and looking into the possibility that the journalists were hit by the Palestinian gunmen."

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that based on the information they had already gathered, "there is a considerable chance that armed Palestinians, who fired wildly, were the ones who brought about the journalist's unfortunate death."

A video aired by Al Jazeera showed Abu Akleh lying motionless on the side of a road next to a wall as another journalist crouches nearby and a man screams for an ambulance. Gunfire rings out in the background. Both reporters were wearing blue flak jackets clearly marked with the word "PRESS."

Will appoint PM, Cabinet in a week, says Gotabaya

He met Wickremesinghe, and explored the possibility of appointing him as Premier, if a majority of MPs support the move

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's beleaguered President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Wednesday said he will appoint a new Prime Minister, who commands a parliamentary majority, and a Cabinet of Ministers, within a week's time, as the island struggles to cope with its political and economic crises.

"I am taking steps to form a new government to control the current situation, to prevent the country from falling into anarchy," he said, in a televised address, two days after his older brother Mahinda Rajapaksa stepped down as Prime Minister, amid violent attacks triggered by ruling party supporters.

On Wednesday, Mr. Gotabaya also met former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, and explored the possibility of appointing him as Premier, if a majority of lawmakers in Parliament supports the move, sources knowledgeable about their discussion told *The Hindu*. Mr. Wickremesinghe is considering the option, said a reliable source, requesting not to be named given the sensitivity of the talks during a grave economic crisis and an enduring political gridlock.

At present, Mr. Wickremesinghe sits in Opposition, as the lone parliamentarian of the United National Party, which split when his former deputy Sajith Premadasa broke away to form the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB or United People's Force), that is now the main Opposition party. Opposition Leader Mr. Premadasa has maintained that he will not accept any position under President Gotabaya, who is hugely unpopular, as citizens struggle amidst acute shortages of essentials, including food items, fuel, cooking gas, and medicines. They hold the Rajapaksas responsible for the country's economic meltdown and their distress.

Mr. Wickremesinghe, if willing, will likely need backers from the ruling camp and the Opposition, to command a majority in the 225-member legislature and form government. He would still have to work under Mr. Gotabaya, who is widely criticised for his "failed" crisis response. For months now, citizens groups across the country are agitating relentlessly, demanding his resignation, and for over a month, demonstrators have been protesting continuously near his sea-facing office in capital Colombo.

Further, in his address, Mr. Gotabaya vowed to amend the Constitution, giving more powers to the Parliament, something Mr. Mahinda had mooted in Parliament weeks before resigning. The proposal would effectively reverse a legislation his government passed, making the Executive President more powerful with greater immunity.

"I will give the opportunity for the new government and PM to start a new programme to take the country forward," Mr. Gotabaya said. Once "stability is restored", the President said he would hold discussions on abolition of the Executive Presidency, which is among the main demands of anti-government protesters and Opposition parties.

U.K. to defend Sweden if it comes under attack

REUTERS
STOCKHOLM

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday said he had agreed new deals with Sweden and Finland to bolster European security, pledging to support both nations' armed forces should they come under attack.

Mr. Johnson is due to sign the new declarations, described by Britain as "a step-change in defence and security cooperation", during visits to both Sweden and Finland on Wednesday.

"What we are saying, emphatically, is that in the event of a disaster or the event of an attack upon Sweden, then the U.K. would come to the assistance of Sweden with whatever Sweden requested," Mr. Johnson said after meeting Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has forced a rethink of how Sweden and Finland safeguard national security.

Both are expected to join NATO, but the processing of their applications could take up to a year.

Pussy Riot member flees Russia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Pussy Riot member Maria Alyokhina has left Russia, she said in an interview, after disguising herself as a food delivery courier to escape police.

Ms. Alyokhina joins thousands of Russians who have fled their country since President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine on February 24.

Last Year, she was sentenced to one year restricted movement for protesting in support of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

Pakistan court asks intel agency not to arrest journalist

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

A court in Islamabad ordered a key Pakistani intelligence agency not to arrest a prominent anchorperson who is accused of spreading fake news and hate content on social media against the military, his colleagues said Wednesday.

The journalist, Sami Abraham, is currently in the U.S. on a personal visit and will return home this week, according to his lawyer Raja Amir Abbas.

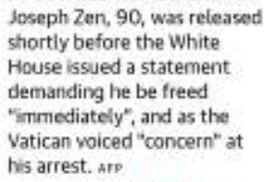
Mr. Abrahim's colleagues say a court in Islamabad ordered the FIA on Tuesday to allow him to remain free at least until he attends a court hearing before May 16.

The latest development comes amid a growing campaign against the military by activists and the Tehreek-e-Insaf party of former Prime Minister Imran Khan who was ousted from power last month through a no-confidence vote in Parliament.

Mr. Khan himself has publicly criticised the country's military chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, without naming him directly. Mr. Khan claims that he was removed from power by a U.S. plot executed by his political opponents.

The U.S. has denied the charge, and Pakistani authorities have urged people not to spread what they call "fake news" against national institutions, including the military and the judiciary.

ELSEWHERE



Apple to pull the plug on iPod after 20 years

CUPERTINO

Apple Inc is discontinuing the iPod more than 20 years after the device became the face of portable music and kick-started its meteoric evolution into the world's biggest company. The iPod Touch, the only version of the portable music player still being sold, will be available till supplies last, Apple said in a blog post on Tuesday. It was launched in 2001. REUTERS

Cardinal of Hong Kong freed soon after arrest

HONG KONG

A Catholic cardinal critical of Beijing was released on bail by Hong Kong authorities, media reported late on Wednesday, as his arrest under national security law prompted U.S. demands that he be freed. Retired cardinal Joseph Zen, 90, was released shortly before the White House issued a statement demanding he be freed "immediately", and as the Vatican voiced "concern" at his arrest. AFP

Ireland warns U.K. against threats to Brexit protocol

Tensions over Northern Ireland accord

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BELFAST

Ireland's Foreign Minister on Wednesday said the U.K. risked a breach of international law if it scraps the trade rules it signed with the EU for Northern Ireland.

Simon Coveney said the U.K.'s threats to pull out of the Northern Ireland Protocol had caused consternation in Brussels, as he met leaders in the British province.

U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said late on Thursday that the government "will not shy away from taking action to stabilise the situation in Northern Ireland if solutions cannot be found" to key sticking points.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson also said his government needed to protect the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which ended three decades of sectarian violence over British rule in Northern Ireland.

"That is crucial for the stability of our country of the U.K., of Northern Ireland," he said, adding that new arrangements needed to "command across community support".

"Plainly the Northern Ireland Protocol fails to do that and we need to sort it out."

Mr. Coveney said Ms. Truss' comments had "gone down really badly across the EU" and rejected London's claims that Brussels was being inflexible over its implementation. "The (European) Commission has been showing a willingness to compromise," he said.

"What they are hearing and seeing from London is a rejection of that approach, towards a breach of international law."

The protocol was signed separately from the Brexit trade deal between U.K. and EU because Northern Ireland has the country's only land border with the bloc.

It keeps the province largely in the European single market and customs union but mandates checks on goods coming to the province from Great Britain – England, Scotland and Wales.

Nothing wrong in China deal: Solomons PM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONIARA

Solomon Islands' Prime Minister dismissed criticism of a new maritime investment deal with China on Wednesday, saying there was nothing "sinister" in the draft agreement.

The new deal, a copy of which has been leaked to the media, comes after a controversial security pact was signed last month.

The security pact gave Beijing a military foothold in the South Pacific, and sparked alarm in Australia and the U.S.

On Wednesday, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare shrugged off criticism about the separate leaked MoU on maritime investment, describing it as a "normal bilateral development initiative" that is yet to be formalised.

A day earlier, Australian PM Scott Morrison had expressed concern regarding the MoU, which covers undersea cables, port wharves, shipbuilding.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. www.isec.ac.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION

No:ISEC/Reg/Estate/2022-23 Date: 10th May 2022

Sealed Tenders are invited for **(a) Internal Painting and Maintenance works at Gents Hostel and (b) Painting in the Library Building** in the ISEC Campus from the reputed Bengaluru based agencies / contractors having adequate experience in painting works. Interested agencies may down load the format from website www.isec.ac.in. Duly filled tender along with EMD of Rs.30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand only) by way of DD / Pay order of any scheduled Bank drawn in favour of **"Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru"**, should be submitted to The Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Dr.V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi PO, Bengaluru - 560 072.
Last Date for submission: 24th May 2022. Tenders will be opened on 25th May 2022 at 11.00 am in the Committee Room. Interested Tenderers may be present while opening the tenders.

Registrar

ISEC/2292

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
IBC O&M Division-8, Zalaki- 586204. Tq:Indi,
Dist:Vijayapur. Email:eezalaki1@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/IBC O&M Dn-8/ZALAKI/Tender/2022-23/209 Dated: 06.05.2022

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
INVITATION FOR PERCENTAGE TENDERS

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC.O&M.Division No.8, Zalaki, Tq: Indi invites the **percentage e-tenders from Class-III & Above contractor registered in KPWD for the block period 2020-25,** Total **102** Nos Closure period,**77** Nos of special repairs works programmed for the year 2022-23, whose Total Cost amounting to Rs: **593.85** Lakhs. The tenderers are required to submit their tenders in **Single cover sytem** containing details of EMD and the particulars under instructions to the tenderers vide clause-1.1.
Maximum Cost of work Rs: 1.00 Lakhs, Minimum Cost of Work Rs: 27.00 Lakhs
Maximum Cost of EMD Rs: 1250/-, Minimum Cost of EMD Rs: 67500/-
(The blank tenders can be obtained through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box).
1) The Contractor can have access to e-tender documents from **16.05.2022** to **23.05.2022** up to 4.30 PM 2) Submission of completed e-tender document will be upto **23.05.2022** upto 4.30 PM 3) Opening of e-tender bids i.e, Cover –I (Financial bid)will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.IBC.O&M.Divn No.8 Zalaki on **25.05.2022 at 11.00** AM In respect of bidders whose e-EMD has been confirmed on the e-tendering platform. 4) The contractor belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes shall be domicile of the State of Karnataka more than 10 Years and should furnish the Certificate. 5) Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason what so ever. 6) Further information can be had from the undersigned during office hours Ph.08422-282227.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, IBC O&M Division-8, Zalaki-586204.

ಪಾರಂಪರಿಕ/ಮಾಹಿತಿ/100/2022-23

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-Mail: **contactus@bmrc.co.in** Web: **www.bmrc.co.in**
No. BMRCL/HR/0081/Project (System) /2022/C-31938 Date: 11.05.2022

NOTIFICATION FOR CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

BMRCL invites applications from qualified and experienced candidates for appointment to the following positions on**"Contract basis".**

Sl.No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
1	Chief Engineer	2
2	Deputy Chief Engineer	9
3	Executive Engineer/Manager	12
4	Asst. Executive Engineer	12
	Total	**35**

Last date for receipt of online applications and for receipt of signed applicant with supporting documents **is 4.00 PM on 10.06.2022.** For details regarding eligibility criteria, salary, application process and other information, please see website: **www.bmrc.co.in/ Career Section.**

Sd/- General Manager (HR)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: 903/SE(E)Tr.(W&M)/EE(E)/T-1/22-23/CYS-02 Date: 11.05.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites tenders against Bid Enquiry No.:**KPTCL/SEE/EE/AEE-1/21-22/110KV/STN-26/110KV Ankola/3** for **Replacement of 2x10MVA, 110/33kV Transformers by 2x20MVA, 110/33kV Transformer at 110/11kV Ankola Sub-station in Uttar Kannada District.**
The detailed notification regarding the works called through the **"e-procurement"** mode can be obtained by logging on to e-procurement's website: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **12.05.2022.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele.),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL,
Karwar Road, Vidyuthnagar, Hubballi.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT- AMBIKANAGAR)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.: A7M1A/Tender/201 DATE: 05.05.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement portal only)
E-Tenders are invited through GoK e-procurement portal: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible bidders for the supply of the following materials.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Name of the Work & EMD
1.	KPCL/ 2021-22 IND5161/ CALL-2	Supply of 3 Phase UV/OV Relay, DC under voltage Relay, Auto Synch. Relay, TTB block-C, Control Relays, PT for open delta, CTs, PTs, Voltage transformers, Volt meter. EMD: **Rs. 12,086/-.**
2.	NPH/ MRP66/G/ 21-22/2294/ CALL-2	Supply of 96KV Lightening arrester, 198KV lighting arrestor, 15KV grade 45KN disc insulator, 110KV CVT, Surge monitor for 110KV LA of any Reputed / Equivalent make as per enclosed technical specifications for Kali & GDPH projects of KPCL. EMD: **Rs. 30,000/-.**

Last date for submission of bids: for Sl. No.1 **upto 13.05.2022 at 17.00Hrs.** for Sl. No.2 **upto 17.05.2022 at 17.00Hrs.** Date & time of opening of tenders: for Sl. No.1 on **16.05.2022 at 10.30Hrs.** for Sl. No.2 on **19.05.2022 at 10.30Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (MSP)A, KPCL, Ambikanagar - 581 363. N.K. District.** Contact No.: **08284 258681,** Mobile: **9449599113,** email: **eemspa@gmail.com.**

MARKET WATCH

	11-05-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	54,088	-0.51
US Dollar	77.25	0.11
Gold	50,646	-0.66
Brent oil	107.15	2.50

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	759.90	-9.20
Apollo Hosp	3679.65	-7.25
Asian Paints	3053.65	-32.70
Axis Bank	672.35	12.60
Bajaj Auto	3612.85	19.80
Bajaj Finserv	13329.80	-300.30
Bajaj Finance	5807.00	-121.45
Bharti Airtel	722.85	3.20
BPCL	347.10	-6.35
Britannia Ind	3259.85	13.30
Cipla	937.60	11.45
Coal India	189.85	-0.20
Divis Lab	4293.80	-2.55
Dr Reddys Lab	3884.05	-29.95
Eicher Motors	2389.15	-26.40
Grasim Ind	1535.35	-6.75
HCL Tech	1060.90	-11.65
HDFC	2219.10	17.80
HDFC Bank	1348.60	7.55
HDFC Life	563.55	4.35
Hero MotoCorp	2470.30	0.55
Hindalco	422.55	-0.45
Hind Unilever	2163.50	-16.90
ICICI Bank	714.20	2.90
Indusind Bank	923.35	12.60
Infosys	1526.75	-26.25
ITC	255.65	-4.10
JSW Steel	648.95	3.65
Kotak Bank	1809.95	12.80
L&T	1570.80	-37.15
M&M	887.05	-1.30
Maruti Suzuki	7396.45	-119.45
Nestle India Ltd.	16512.40	-8.20
NTPC	152.55	-2.90
ONGC	158.60	4.15
PowerGrid Corp	239.20	-4.45
Reliance Ind	2449.30	-25.35
SBI Life	1087.15	6.10
State Bank	476.55	1.35
Shree Cement	23382.30	-918.30
Sun Pharma	854.80	-7.05
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	744.10	-1.70
Tata Motors	388.15	-3.60
Tata Steel	1165.70	0.80
TCS	3412.00	-26.75
Tech Mahindra	1224.45	-17.85
Titan	2114.70	-22.65
UltraTech Cement	6340.20	-26.25
UPL	792.15	2.35
Wipro	471.90	-5.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 11

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.04	77.36
Euro	81.28	81.62
British Pound	95.14	95.54
Japanese Yen (100)	59.35	59.60
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.51
Swiss Franc	77.84	78.17
Singapore Dollar	55.58	55.82
Canadian Dollar	59.40	59.67
Malaysian Ringgit	17.59	17.66
Australian Dollar	53.98	54.21

Source:Indian Bank

DHL Supply Chain widens India Fulfilment Network

MUMBAI

DHL Supply Chain announced the expansion of its India Fulfilment Network from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and Delhi.

'Inflation is the biggest challenge now'

Interest rate increases to stem rising prices could, however, dent fledgling demand recovery: official

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Inflation is now the biggest challenge for India's policy makers rather than the U.S. Federal Reserve's taper programme and measures like interest rate increases to stem rising prices could dent the fledgling consumption demand recovery from the pandemic not just in India but globally, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The NSO is set to release April retail inflation data on Thursday. Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index had surged to 6.95% in March, the third month in a row that it had stayed above the RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6%, and most economists expect the pace of price increases to quicken in April.

Price rise contagion: Inflation is spreading past food to goods and services as producers pass on higher costs. • VEDHAN M

"The biggest fear right now is inflation and we have started to tackle it," the official involved in monitoring the economy said, speaking on condition of anonymity. In an off-cycle move last week, the RBI raised key interest rates by 40 basis points while retaining an accommodative policy stance citing rising price pressures.

"The nearly 7% inflation print for March came four days after the RBI review, then came Indonesia's decision to ban edible oil exports and the escalation in sunflower oil and coal supply constraints. Inflation was high in manufactured goods earlier, weak in contact-intensive services, but now it is food and crude inflation and is spreading across goods and services as producers are no longer able to hold off transmission of input costs," the official noted.

"All central banks are going to do their best to drive inflation down but, in the process, they run the risk of driving down whatever little demand is there, post-pandemic," the official said.

"Currently, the inflationary forces that are hitting us and the rest of the world are outside everyone's hands and three quarters of the items in our Consumer Price Index are at risk due to the war in Ukraine, so the room for doing too much is limited," the official said.

'Stagflation scenario'

Globally, stagflation had moved from being a risk scenario to a baseline scenario, the official added.

While the RBI Governor had been nudging the Centre and States to cut taxes on petrol and diesel to ease inflationary pressures, the official noted that the spurt in global fertiliser prices would push up subsidies sharply.

"It's a difficult trade-off to make. If excise duty on petroleum products are cut by say ₹5 a litre and higher borrowings are resorted to, for funding the fertiliser subsidy bill, it will push up the fiscal deficit as well as yields on government debt even more," the official pointed out.

'Rupee fell on spillover effects of strong dollar'

'Reserves, currency not hit by outflows'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The rupee's fall to all-time lows and the decline in India's forex reserves is not driven by capital outflows, but the spillover effects of a stronger U.S. dollar, senior officials said on Wednesday.

While the RBI had been intervening in the forex markets since Monday, the idea was not to hold or aim to keep the rupee at a certain level but to prevent 'jerky' moves, an official aware of the rationale for the interventions pointed out.

"There is no fixation about any particular value... it's not as if there is an attempt to resist levels being breached, but they should not be jerky movements," the official said, adding that the interventions had helped the currency appreciate to 77.25 to a dollar on Wednesday, from Monday's record low of 77.46.

Dismissing speculation that the forex reserves had fallen below $600 billion due to such market interventions, the official said the scale of interventions were not that large and the dip was mainly attributable to valuation losses in forex holdings in non-dollar currencies as the dollar was appreciating against advanced economy currencies as well.

"There are adequate reserves to fund 18 months of imports, FDI levels are as high as last year and foreign institutional investors are making a beeline for Indian debt now," he asserted.

Tatas readying blueprint for 'battery' firm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Tata group is preparing a blueprint to unveil a "battery company" both in India and abroad as part of its transition to be future-ready, Tata Sons chairman N. Chandrasekaran said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the CII Business Summit 2022, he also said the group "is in a massive transformation" to become future-ready and would shortly announce a group-level goal towards becoming carbon neutral.

"We are transforming our core businesses to be future-ready... where we are tightly integrating or embedding digital, data, AI and sustainability at the core of the business."

Novelis to invest $2.5 bn in new aluminium plant

'Mill in U.S. to start operations in 2025'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Unit's capacity will help serve growing U.S. demand for beverage can sheet

Novelis Inc. said it would invest $2.5 billion to build a new low-carbon recycling and rolling plant in Bay Minette, Alabama in the U.S.

The facility will have a capacity of 600 kilotonnes of finished aluminium goods per year and is slated for commissioning in mid-2025, said the company, a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries.

"This is also the largest global greenfield expansion project of the Aditya Birla Group and will take the group's total investment in the U.S. across businesses to over $14 billion," said Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of Novelis and of the Aditya Birla Group. More than half of the facility's capacity will be used to serve growing demand for aluminium beverage can sheet in North America, the company said.

"The facility will be the first fully integrated aluminium mill built in the U.S. in 40 years. It is expected to create up to 1,000 high-paying, advanced careers," it added.

With the addition of a new recycling centre, Novelis would soon be able to recycle 90 billion cans, up from the 74 billion used beverage cans the firm handles.

DRL, S. Korea's HK sign gastric drug pact

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Pharma major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has entered into an exclusive partnership with South Korean firm HK inno.N Corporation to commercialise the latter's novel molecule Tegoprazan, which is indicated for gastrointestinal diseases, in India and select emerging markets.

Under the partnership, HK inno.N will manufacture and supply Tegoprazan, while Dr. Reddy's will be responsible for local clinical development, registration, marketing and sales in the licensed territories. The agreement grants Dr. Reddy's exclusive rights to develop and commercialise Tegoprazan.

Shippers urged to use Indian ports as Colombo in 'fluid' state

Forum asks exporters to reroute west, eastbound cargoes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The fluid situation in Colombo port, where cargo operations were fully suspended on Tuesday in view of the tense situation in the island, has forced shippers from the South, especially Kerala, to seek alternative routes to cater to the needs of export-import community here.

Kerala Exporters' Forum has urged all the members of the trade to route their Jebel Ali and West Asia cargo either via Cochin port-Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai or Cochin Port-Mundra Port or via Chennai-Dubai.

Cargo meant for East Asia should be routed via either

Tuticorin or Chennai ports, it said. The forum requested Kerala Maritime Board and the Ports Minister to operate feeder vessel services having depth of 10-plus metres from Kollam port. It also urged the board to arrange electronic data interchange facilities and immigration checkpoints for crew movement in Kollam port.

Forum secretary Munshid Ali said though the suspended operations in Colombo were restored by Wednesday evening, there was risk in routing the cargo through the port in the current political and economic situation in Sri Lanka's capital city.

The Ceylon Association of Shipping Agents in a letter to Sri Lanka Ports Authority chairman pointed out on Tuesday that vessels that had completed operations were idling inside the Colombo port without being able to sail out. This had resulted in 'huge' financial loss for shipping lines, it said.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yagachi Project Division, Belur. **PHONE: 08177-222294**

Short TermTender Notification No.04/2022-23, Dated: 11.05.2022

(Through e-procurement portal only) The Executive Engineer, CNNL.,Yagachi Project Division, Belur- 573115 Hassan Dist., invited Short term Tender Notification through e- procurement only on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of **PWD Class-III &** above of any State/ Central Government/Public Sector organization who are enrolled in **Category IA &** above of CNNL in Two cover system on the basis of **KW-4** conditions. **1) Estimate Cost of the works Rs.150.00 Lakhs and Rs.140.00 Lakhs. 2) EMD amount Rs.2.00Lakhs 3)** Number of Works: **02 (TWO) 4)** The contractor can have access e-tender documents from Date:-**18-05-2022 from 4.00 PM to** Date:-**25-05-2022 at 4.00 pm.** through website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by e –portal, **6)** Opening of Technical bid on Date:- **27-05-2022** at **11.00** am onwards. (if possible) **7)** Time limit : **06 months** (including monsoon). For further information etc., contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website **www.eproc. karnataka.gov.in** (Department).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, CNNL., Yagachi Project Division, Belur

ಕಾವೇರಿ/ಕ.ನೀ/ಹೇಮಾ/ಯಗಚಿ/801/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Sri. K.B PRASHANTHA S/o. Sri.K.H.Balarama Gowdge and Another** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr. N.KITTA REDDY S/o Mr. Nandal Reddy**, any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.2**, BBMP Katha St. No.7758, Measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet in all measuring **1200 Square Feet** and **Site No.3**, BBMP Katha St. No.267, Measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet in all measuring **1200 square Feet**, both carved out of Survey No.30/2/P1(455)/3, Situated at **Kalkere village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk**, presently under BBMP.

Site No.2 bounded on
East by : Site No.1, **West by :** Site No.3, **North by :** Private property, **South by :** Road.
Site No.3 bounded on
East by : Site No.2, **West by :** Site No.4, **North by :** Private property, **South by :** Road.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-560 043. Contact : 9845846428

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mr. SRUTH M S/o. S Manikandan** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr. N NAGARAJ S/o. Chikkanarayappa** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Eastern portion of **Site No. 7**, formed out of converted Sy No. 2, converted for Residential usage Purpose vide O.M Dated 07.07.2011, Bearing No. ALN.(E)SR(W-I) 192/11-12, dated 07.07.2011, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, situated in the layout called as **"LAKE VIEW GARDEN"** of **K.Channasandra Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk**, presently under BBMP limits, measuring East to West 20 feet, North to South 35 feet, in all measuring **700 square feet** along with the residential building standing thereon and bounded on:-
East by : Site No. 6, West by : Remaining Western portion of same Site No. 7, North by : Road, South by : Site No. 3.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-560 043. Contact : 9845846428

Rail Land Development Authority
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi-110002. Phone: + 91-11-23233854, Fax: +91-11-23233835

REQUEST FOR ENLISTMENT THROUGH E-TENDER ON QUARTERLY BASIS
(RFE Notice No. RLDA/RFE/CT-15 of 2022 Dated 09.05.2022)
(RFE Notice No. RLDA/RFE/CT-16 of 2022 Dated 09.05.2022)

REQUEST FOR EMPANELMENT OF FINANCIAL & MARKETING CONSULTANTS FOR VARIOUS SITES/RAILWAY COLONIES OF INDIAN RAILWAYS LOCATED PAN INDIA
(PANEL -1 FOR SITES VALUING MORE THAN RS. 300 CRORE)
(PANEL -2 FOR SITES VALUING RS. 50 CRORE UPTO RS. 300 CRORE)

RFE Document Fee (Non-Refundable): Rs. 5,900/- (i/c GST @18%) Per Panel
EMD: Rs. 75,000/- (For Panel-1) and Rs. 25,000/- (For Panel-2)
Last Date of Submission of E-RFE Online: 30.06.2022 UPTO 15:00 HRS
Opening of E-RFE: 01.07.2022 at 15:30 Hrs.; Consultants who want empanelment for both panels have to apply separately for both panels.
For Further details of these RFEs, please visit our website www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement Portal www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA Under the heading 'e-tender'
For any clarifications, may please contact: -

Manager/Marketing	Executive Director/Finance	For E-bid Queries:-
M: 88184 41140	Contact No.: 011-23232854, Extn: 111	Mr. Saroj Singh
mgrmarketing@rlda.railnet.gov.in	gmfinrlda@gmail.com	M: 95998 53865
		saroj@ho-tenderwizard.com

Note: Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on RLDA's website. Assistant Manager/Tender. (M) 87505 54811

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
ESTATE BRANCH, KRISHI NAGAR, DHARWAD-580 005 (Karnataka)
Fax:+91-836-2441188 Phone :+ 91-836-2214214
E mail: estateofficer@rediffmail.com Epabx:+91-836-2214214/216,332,214

No.EO/DB/TN/e-Proc.T-70/2022-23 Date: 09-05-2022

"TENDER NOTIFICATION" (II nd CALL)

Tenders have been re-invited from registered Contractors / agencies, for services at various campuses of the University. The details of the tender can be had through e-procurement portal (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). For more details please contact 0836-2214214/332 during office hours. Interested agencies need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For details of registration please contact ph. No: **080-23010900**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1)	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications.	28-05-2022	Up to	16.00 Hrs
2)	Date & Time for pre bid meeting.	30-05-2022	At	11.00 Hrs
3)	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders.	06-06-2022	Up to	16.00 Hrs
4)	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid.	07-06-2022	At	16.15 Hrs
5)	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid.	08-06-2022	At	16.00 Hrs

Note: The bidders shall get updated / acquainted with ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM (if any) issued on-line from time to time on the e-procurement portal during the entire tender process.

Sd/-
Estate Officer

DIPR/DWD/166/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Divisional Office, Salem – 636005 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the under mentioned works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for Mechanical Branch in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tender will be accepted. **The cost of tender form and EMD need to be done through online payment only. Tenders received without valid EMD shall be rejected. Any other mode of submission of cost of tender form and EMD will not be accepted.** All documents to support fulfillment of technical eligibility criteria and financial eligibility criteria and any other document required to be submitted should be scanned and uploaded along with the tender. It is the responsibility of Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to obtain Digital Signature Certificates for participating e-tendering.

Tender Notice Number and date: SA-M-03-2022 dated 09.05.2022
Name of Work: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (NON-HEATER BASED FULLY AUTOMATIC ORGANIC WASTE COMPOSTER (AOWC) WITH MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY) AT SALEM RAILWAY STATION
Estimate Value: ₹ 35,31,445.68
Earnest Money: ₹ 70,700/- (Rupees Seventy thousand seven hundred only)
Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 3,360/-

Tender Notice Number and date: SA-M-04-2022 dated 09.05.2022
Name of Work: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (NON-HEATER BASED FULLY AUTOMATIC ORGANIC WASTE COMPOSTER (AOWC) WITH MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY) AT TIRUPPUR RAILWAY STATION
Estimate Value: ₹ 28,48,389.04
Earnest Money: ₹ 57,000/- (Rupees Fifty seven thousand only)
Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 3,360/-

Tender Notice Number and date: SA-M-05-2022 dated 09.05.2022
Name of Work: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (NON-HEATER BASED FULLY AUTOMATIC ORGANIC WASTE COMPOSTER (AOWC) WITH MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY) AT KARUR RAILWAY STATION
Estimate Value: ₹ 28,48,389.04
Earnest Money: ₹ 57,000/- (Rupees Fifty seven thousand only)
Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 3,360/-

Tender Closing date and Time: 31.05.2022 at 14.00 Hrs

Web address: http://www.ireps.gov.in

Complete details of the above tender are given on the e-portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"**
For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"**
The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.
Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Salem – 636 005

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

Tata Motors introduces Nexon EV Max

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. introduced the new Nexon EV MAX, at a starting price of ₹17.74 lakh (ex-showroom all India). The offering is for customers who are looking for longer inter-city travel, the firm said.

Equipped with a 40.5 kWh Lithium-ion battery pack, the Nexon EV Max offers 33% higher battery capacity, delivering a range of 437 km (under standard testing conditions), which ensures uninterrupted inter-city travel.

It produces 105 kW (143 PS) of power and delivers an instant torque of 250 Nm available at the push of the pedal, resulting in 0-100 sprint time under 9 seconds. The topmost model is priced at ₹19.24 lakh, ex-showroom.

PV wholesales drop 3.8%, 2-wheelers rise 15%: SIAM

PV sales still below April 2017 level: DG

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches to dealers by manufacturers fell 3.84% in April to 2,51,581 units amid ongoing supply-related challenges, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said on Wednesday.

As per the data released by the industry body, domestic wholesales of PVs fell 3.84% from 2,61,633 units in April 2021.

Car sales dip

Within the PV segment, car sales were down 20% to 1,12,857 units, while sales of vans was almost flat at 11,511 units. Wholesales of utility vehicles, however, rose almost 17% to 1,27,213 units.

PV sales does not include data from BMW, Mercedes, Tata Motors and Volvo Auto.

The data showed that two-wheeler sales rose 15% to 1,148,696 units. While sales of scooters jumped 24% to 3,74,556 units, wholesales of motorcycles grew 10% to 7,35,360 units.

Wholesales of three-wheelers grew to 20,938 units, up from 13,856 units.

"Sales of passenger vehicles is still below the April 2017 figures, while two-wheelers are even below the April 2012 figures. Three-wheelers are yet to reach normal levels, as sales are still less than 50% of April 2016 figures," Rajesh Menon, Director General, SIAM, said.

He added that manufacturers were working hard to manage the supplier ecosystem with 'agility and flexibility', as supply-side challenges continue for the industry.

Chemplast Sanmar Q4 net rises to ₹232 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd., part of the SHL Chemicals Group, was working on debottlenecking of suspension PVC capacity unit by 10% as the outlook for the company's product portfolio remained 'very positive', a top company official said on Wednesday.

The company, in a statement, declared financial results for the quarter ending March 31, 2022 with profit after tax touching ₹232 crore compared with the ₹179 crore registered in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Revenue during the quarter rose to ₹1,807 crore from ₹1,342 crore.

For the financial year ended March 31, profit after tax went up to ₹649 crore from ₹310 crore.

Rising costs affecting purchase decisions: EY

'Lower income earners impacted most'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

A majority of Indian consumers are bullish about their financial situation in the next one year, but have raised concerns over rising cost of goods and services, which is affecting their purchasing decisions, according to an EY report.

Moreover, uncertainty around managing rising living costs is driving more than 80% in India to save more money, according to the findings of the ninth edition of the EY Future Consumer Index for India.

The Index for India reaffirms the 'positive outlook' of the Indian consumers as 77% expect positive changes in the financial situation, in the next one year. This is better than their global counterparts which stand at 48%, EY said in the report.

However, the survey, which was conducted among more than 1,000 Indian consumers in February, "raises concerns over the rising cost of goods and services that is impacting their ability to purchase goods and is affecting their purchasing decisions."

"Emerging markets are feeling the pinch strongly, with 62% citing 'affordability' affecting their choices (South Africa 77%, India 64%, Brazil 63%, China 42%), compared with 45% of respondents from developed markets," EY said in the report.

In India, this impacts lower-income earners the most (72%), followed by the high-income group at 60%, and the middle-income group at 58%, it said.

Auto sector beset by string of uncertainties: Pawah

Cites COVID, chip, container shortages

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Uncertainties seemed to be increasing in the automotive industry in the last three years, BMW Group India president Vikram Pawah observed on Wednesday.

"Let's look at the last three years," he said.

"In 2020, we were faced with a COVID crisis and the semiconductor shortage got added to it in 2021. In 2022, we still have COVID in many parts of the world and the chip crunch continues.

"On top of it, we have the geopolitical situation that is causing some logistical nightmares," he said.

Container and chip shortages were creating a lot of uncertainties for the industry as they impacted shipments and delivery schedules, Mr. Pawah added.

Vikram Pawah

"[However] the demand is quite robust for the premium segment and this is the after-effect of COVID."

On taxation, he said statistically India was probably one of the highest-taxed countries as far as the premium or luxury automotive industry was concerned.

"If you look at the component of the retail price of a luxury car today, 60% of that is taxes and duties."

All-round Marsh fashions much-needed victory for Capitals

Warner lends support in the Delhi side's chase; Ashwin and Padikkal ensure fighting total for Royals against some disciplined bowling

IPL 2022

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE
NAVI MUMBAI

A matured effort with bat and ball from Mitchell Marsh (89, 62b, 5x4, 7x6 & 2/25) helped Delhi Capitals defeat Rajasthan Royals by eight wickets in an Indian Premier League clash at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on Wednesday. Marsh bowled with discipline and shepherded his team along for the most part during the run chase as Capitals notched up their sixth win in the competition.

After a lacklustre performance against Chennai Super Kings three days ago, Capitals improved in all facets of the game. Marsh's effort with the ball was supported by the other seamers and a much-improved Kuldeep Yadav, and while batting, Marsh found an able ally in fellow Australian David Warner (52 n.o., 4lb, 5x4, 1x6).

Sizzling knocks: Marsh gave vent to his aggressive instincts in his 62-ball 89, while Warner (53) took Capitals past the finish line. •SPORTZPICS/IPL

Shaky start

Capitals began their innings shakily after being set a target of 161, with K.S. Bharat departing without scoring in the first over, falling to the probing Trent Boult. Marsh, the No. 3, started hitting sixes regularly to try to keep his side abreast with the required run-rate. He was particularly successful with his lofted strokes off full or length deliveries, and the pull strokes off short ones. Kuldeep Sen and Yuzvendra Chahal bore the brunt of his ire.

Warner was solid but quiet at the other end, opening up only towards the business end of the innings. Both batters enjoyed a bit a luck.

With nine wickets in the bag, Capitals decided after the 15th over that it was time to accelerate. Ashwin and Boult were pulled repeatedly as 30 runs were taken off two overs. Marsh departed before Rishabh Pant provided the finishing touches.

Earlier in the Royals' innings, Devdutt Padikkal (48, 30b, 6x4, 2x6) and R. Ashwin (50, 38b, 4x4, 2x6) toiled through some probing spells by Capitals' bowlers to help put up a fighting total.

Ashwin gave the impetus early on, playing some lovely orthodox strokes for boundaries. He was prepared to use his feet to the spinners.

Ashwin and Padikkal added 53 runs in six overs for the third wicket. Padikkal batted patiently before hitting two sixes off Axar Patel in the 13th over. He then went on the attack against Shardul Thakur and Marsh. It took an excellent catch from substitute Kamlesh Nagarkoti to get him out – Nagarkoti dived in front at deep square-leg after the batter had pulled Nortje.

Next assignment

RR: May 15 vs. **LSG**
Brabourne, 7.30 p.m.

DC: May 16 vs. **PBKS**
DY Patil, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Lalit b Marsh 19 *(19b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Jos Buttler c Shardul b Sakariya 7 *(11b, 1x4)*, R. Ashwin c Warner b Marsh 50 *(38b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal c sub (Nagarkoti) b Nortje 48 *(30b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Sanju Samson c Shardul b Nortje 6 *(4b, 1x4)*, Riyan Parag c Powell b Sakariya 9 *(5b, 1x6)*, Rassie van der Dussen (not out) 12 *(10b, 1x4)*, Trent Boult (not out) 3 *(3b)*; Extras (b-1, w-5): 6; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 160.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-11 (Buttler, 2.5 overs), 2-54 (Jaiswal, 8.1), 3-107 (R. Ashwin, 14.1), 4-125 (Samson, 16.1), 5-142 (Parag, 17.3), 6-146 (Padikkal, 18.1).

DELHI CAPITALS BOWLING
Sakariya 4-0-23-2, Nortje 4-0-39-2, Shardul 4-0-27-0, Axar 2-0-25-0, Marsh 3-0-25-2, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-20-0

DELHI CAPITALS
K.S. Bharat c Samson b Boult 0 *(2b)*, David Warner (not out) 52 *(41b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Mitchell Marsh c Sen b Chahal 89 *(62b, 5x4, 7x6)*, Rishabh Pant (not out) 13 *(4b, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-5): 7; Total (for two wkts. in 18.1 overs): 161.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Bharat, 0.2), 2-144 (Marsh, 17.1).

ROYALS BOWLING
Boult 4-0-32-1, Prasidh 3-1-20-0, R. Ashwin 4-0-32-0, Sen 3.1-0-32-0, Chahal 4-0-43-1.

Toss: Capitals. **MoM:** Marsh.
Capitals won by eight wickets with 11 balls to spare.

Innings scan

RR		DC
42	Dots	41
14	Fours	10
6	Sixes	10
43/1	PP	38/1
8.00	RR	8.86

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	12	9	3	18	0.376
Lucknow Super Giants	12	8	4	16	0.385
Rajasthan Royals	12	7	5	14	0.228
Royal Challengers Bangalore	12	7	5	14	-0.115
Delhi Capitals	12	6	6	12	0.210
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	5	6	10	-0.031
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	7	10	-0.057
Punjab Kings	11	5	6	10	-0.231
Chennai Super Kings	11	4	7	8	0.028
Mumbai Indians (E)	11	2	9	4	-0.894

After the RR-DC match on May 11 *Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated*

Jadeja out of remainder of IPL

Jadeja. •SPORTZPICS/IPL

SPORTS BUREAU

Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been ruled out of the remainder of IPL 2022 after sustaining a rib injury. Jadeja was hurt while attempting a catch against Royal Challengers Bangalore on May 4. The southpaw had missed Chennai Super Kings' last match against Delhi Capitals.

Jadeja was handed CSK captaincy two days before the start of the season. However, eight matches into this IPL, he handed the reins back to M.S. Dhoni.

In IPL-15, Jadeja scored 116 runs in 10 innings at an average of 19.33 and a strike rate of 118.36. Besides, he took five wickets at an economy rate of 7.51.

CSK looks to do the double over MI

AYAN ACHARYA
MUMBAI

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will seek valuable points in the playoffs race when it faces the now-eliminated Mumbai Indians (MI) in an IPL match at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.

Tackling spin has been MI's bugbear in 2022. MI has lost 23 wickets and managed the second-worst run rate (7.49) of all teams against spin so far, which CSK could look to exploit. MI's problems have been compounded after a forearm injury put Suryakumar Yadav out of the remainder of the IPL.

Kieron Pollard's poor run has been a blow too. He has been out to spin five times while striking at a touch over 80.

If Pollard is rested, Dewald Brevis could replace him and open the batting. Ishan Kishan has shown signs of returning to form but trying him at two-drop (314 in nine innings at strike rate of 146.04 at 4 in IPL 2020) is an option, with Tilak Varma at 3.

CSK has found stability at the top with three consecutive fifty-plus stands since Devon Conway's return.

Conway has been severe against spin, striking at 196.55 while his opening partner Ruturaj Gaikwad has taken down pacers, hitting at just under 135. Their Powerplay tactics will make for an exciting watch.

Among pacers, CSK has relied on Mukesh Choudhary, who, in the first-leg against Mumbai, took three for 19. MI will be relieved at Jasprit Bumrah's return to form against KKR (five for 10) after he went wicketless in seven out of the first 10 games.

Conway. •SPORTZPICS/IPL

As a tough group stage draws to a close, CSK will battle for survival while MI will seek a new blueprint for 2023.

TODAY'S MATCH

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS vs. MUMBAI INDIANS

WANKHEDE, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 33
CSK 14 | MI 19

Previous meeting
CSK won by three wickets, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Price-tag pressure lasts for a certain time: Kishan

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

Mumbai Indians' tale for the Indian Premier League's 2022 edition is similar to that of its key member Ishan Kishan. While the most successful IPL franchise has hit rock bottom in the points table, Kishan – the most expensive signing in the IPL auction – has struggled to fire with the willow.

The dasher admitted that the price-tag pressure did play on his mind initially but he has learnt to deal with it. "Price-tag pressure lasts for a certain time. Maybe on auction day, or maybe a day or two after that. But at the level you are playing and having played for a while, I know what is most important," Kishan said during an online media interaction on Wednesday ahead of Mumbai Indians' tie against Chennai Super Kings.

"Do I keep that pressure on the mind or do I focus on how you can win matches for the team? Obviously, price-tag pressure will be there for a while," said Kishan adding that with seniors around it can be dealt with better.

Kishan, who has tallied 321 runs at a strike rate of 117.15 so far this season, added that his interactions with captain Rohit Sharma and India seniors Virat Kohli and Hardik Pandya were quite similar. "All of them said the same thing; 'Don't be worried about the price-tag pressure, it's not something you have asked for. Instead of thinking about that, think of cricket and be in your zone. That is important.' It's possible they would have also faced such a situation before. How have they handled it then? These are the things I have spoken about," Kishan said.

Kishan. •SPORTZPICS/IPL

Secondary

"I feel very light now, I don't even think about it. Price tag is secondary. Whether you have been sold for 1 crore, base price or 15 crores, what matters is how you make the team win. Or if you are not in form, how you are helping others bring out their best."

Mumbai Indians will be hoping for Kishan to finish the season on a strong note.

Titans prove detractors wrong

Hardik's men seem to have cracked the code in their first season

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

Its promoters won the bid last October. But due to technical reasons, its entry into the Indian Premier League fold was formalised merely days ahead of the player auction. Despite all the glitches, Gujarat Titans seems to have cracked the IPL code in the first season itself.

The fact that the Titans became the first team to qualify for the playoffs on Tuesday, that too with a thumping win over second-placed Lucknow Super Giants, underlines the dominant force that Hardik Pandya & Co. has been over the last seven weeks.

Shubman Gill, whose relatively subdued knock in challenging conditions for batters at the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium turned out to be the difference between the teams, was forthright about his feelings.

"It feels great. Coming into the season, not many people gave us much of a chance. Not many people thought we would qualify. But here we are, sitting on top of the table. It feels pretty great," Gill told the host broadcaster after being adjudged the player-of-the-match.

Gill wasn't off the mark, even with a microphone in his hand. After all, Titans received flak from various quarters about its preferred batting combination at the auction table.

Not many saw that the think-tank consisting of head coach Ashish Nehra, assistant coach Gary Kirsten, captain Hardik and director of cricket Vikram Solanki focused on recruiting players who can win matches single-handedly to its roster. The move has paid rich dividends so far.

"A lot has said about our line-up, and I'm fine with that. People are absolutely entitled to their opinion. But I can assure you, at no stage did we think we had a weakened or a weak batting line-up," Solanki said on Tuesday night.

Titans will be hoping to continue their charge in the last week of the tournament.

Carving a niche: With nine wins out of 12 games in IPL-15, debutant side Gujarat Titans has had an incredible run so far. •SPORTZPICS/IPL

Nadal and Swiatek ease into the last 16

ITALIAN OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROME

Rafael Nadal eased into the last 16 of the Italian Open on Wednesday with a straightforward 6-3, 6-1 win over John Isner, while Iga Swiatek is on course for a fifth straight WTA triumph after seeing off Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-3, 6-0.

Third seed Nadal made short work of Isner as he bids for an 11th title in Rome, the King of Clay seeing off his American opponent in one hour and 17 minutes under blazing sunshine at the Foro Italico.

Nadal later told reporters that Swiatek was doing "amazing things" and it was difficult to argue after she set up a third-round match with Victoria Azarenka after wiping the floor with Ruse.

Red-hot form: Swiatek is on course for a fifth straight WTA triumph. •AFP

The 20-year-old Swiatek is in red-hot form after winning her last four tournaments and will be eyeing a second title at Roland Garros after winning there as a teenager in 2020.

Karolina Pliskova was dumped out of the women's tournament after being beaten by Switzerland's Jil Teichmann 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

Stefanos Tsitsipas was forced to work hard to beat Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (4) in a tough match in which he had to save two match points before eventually prevailing in a third-set tie-break.

The 23-year-old could meet Alexander Zverev in the semifinals as he did in Madrid after the German saw off Sebastian Baez 7-6(6), 6-3.

Important results: Men: Second round: Wawrinka bt Djere 7-6(8), 3-6, 6-4. Zverev bt Baez 7-6(6), 6-3; Nadal bt Isner 6-3, 6-1; Tsitsipas bt Dimitrov 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(4); Giron bt Schwartzman 6-1, 7-6(4).

Women: Second round: Putintseva bt Muguruza3-6, 7-6(4), 6-1; Kasatkina bt Fernandez 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(2). Sabalenka bt Shuai 6-2, 6-0; Martic bt Kontaveit 6-2, 6-3; Anisimova bt Bencic 7-6(5), 6-1; Teichmann bt Pliskova 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; Gauff bt Brengle 6-2, 6-4; Azarenka bt Osorio Serrano 6-2, 6-4; Swiatek bt Ruse 6-3, 6-0.

All too easy for Nikhat, Manisha and Parveen

BOXING WORLDS

SPORTS BUREAU

Indian boxers continued to shine on the third day of the World women's boxing championships in Istanbul on Wednesday.

Nikhat Zareen (52kg), Manisha Moun (57kg) and Parveen (63) posted wins to reach the pre-quarterfinals.

Nikhat had a fine start to her campaign as she recorded a comprehensive 5-0 victory over Mexican Fatima Herrera in an opening round contest.

Showing maturity and experience, Nikhat predominantly used her left hooks to score against Fatima, who landed some powerful punches, in the first round.

Nikhat, an Asian bronze medallist, showed better control as she moved around nicely and displayed impressive combinations in the next two rounds to tame the Mexican.

Dominant show: Manisha, left, hardly broke a sweat as she outpunched Nepal's Chandrakala 5-0. •TWITTER@BFI_OFFICIAL

National champion Parveen upset former Worlds silver medallist Mariia Bova of Ukraine 5-0 in a first-round contest.

Mariia, who chose some well-directed head shots, stayed marginally ahead in the first round against a cautious Parveen, hailing from Roorkee of Rohtak district in Haryana.

However, 22-year-old Parveen made a good comeback as she used her long reach and fast hands to land scoring punches from a distance.

Another Asian bronze medallist Manisha hardly broke a sweat as she outpunched Nepal's Chandrakala Thapa 5-0 in the first round. Manisha will next face Bulgaria's Svetlana Staneva.

The results (Indians unless specified):

Preliminary rounds: 52kg: Nikhat Zareen bt Fatima Herrera (Mex) 5-0; **57kg:** Manisha Moun bt Chandrakala Thapa (Nep) 5-0; **63kg:** Parveen bt Mariia Bova (Ukr) 5-0.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1, MTV & Jio TV, 7 a.m.
Badminton: Thomas & Uber Cup, Sports 18 & Voot Select, 7.30 a.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.15 a.m. (Friday)
La Liga: Sports 18, MTV, Voot Select & Jio TV, 11.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF

It's advantage Miami and Phoenix

MIAMI

Jimmy Butler scored 23 points Miami Heat thrashed Philadelphia 76ers 120-85 to seize control of their best-of-seven Eastern Conference playoff series. In Phoenix, Suns overwhelmed Mavericks to score a 110-80 win in the Western Conference playoffs.

The results: EC: Miami 120 bt Philadelphia 85. *Miami leads 3-2*; **WC:** Phoenix 110 bt Dallas 80. *Phoenix leads 3-2.*

Sarthak Chavan secures podium finish

CHENNAI

Honda Racing India rider Sarthak Chavan secured a podium finish at round two of the Thailand Talent Cup 2022. The 15-year-old lad from Pune started 12 in the second race of the round and quickly moved up the order before giving a tough fight to the competition in wet conditions to finish third, just 0.583 seconds behind the race leader. Meanwhile, another Indian rider Kavin Quintal (16-year-old) starting 15th made a good start and overtook five riders on the first lap before eventually finishing ninth.

Chelsea tops UEFA prize money list

GENEVA

Champions League winner Chelsea earned nearly €120 million ($126.5 million) from UEFA last season, topping the prize money list for European clubs published on Wednesday. That was just ahead of beaten finalist Manchester City, which received just over €119 million ($125.6 million) Semifinalists Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain each got almost €110 million ($116 million), the only other clubs to earn a nine-figure sum from UEFA. AP

Adam Peaty out of World Championships

LONDON

Triple Olympic swimming champion Adam Peaty has been ruled out of the upcoming World Championships in Budapest with a foot injury, he said Wednesday.

"I have been advised to rest for 6 weeks which unfortunately takes me out of contention for the FINA World Championships in Budapest next month," said Peaty. AFP

Tvesa to lead team at Aramco Series

BANGKOK

Tvesa Malik will be shouldering the responsibility of being the captain as she aims for a good show at the $1 million Aramco Team Series-Bangkok, starting on Thursday. In the team draft on Tuesday evening, Tvesa opted for the Switzerland's Nobuhle Dlamini, ranked 429th in the world, and Anais Maggetti completed her team through random draw. Both players are from Switzerland. PTI

Indian teams suffer a reverse

Men go down fighting to Chinese Taipei; women blanked by Korea

THOMAS & UBER CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK

India endured a tough day in office with both the men's and women's badminton teams suffering defeats in their final group match at the Thomas and Uber Cup Final here on Wednesday.

While the men's team put up a spirited fight before going down 2-3 to Chinese Taipei in Group C, the women shuttlers couldn't take a single game off Korea, suffering a 5-0 defeat in group D.

However, the defeats will not matter much as both the teams have already sealed quarterfinal berths after ensuring a top-two finish in the group following two victories.

For the women, it was a reality check, after wins against Canada and USA, as they looked awfully out of sorts against a much superior opponent.

Sindhu's bogey

P.V. Sindhu succumbed to a fifth straight loss to World No. 4 An Seyoung while Shruti Mishra and Simran Singhi were no match for World No. 2 pair of Sohee Lee and Seungchan Shin. Aakarshi Kashyap was sent packing by Ga Eun Kim as India surrendered the tie.

Hye Jeong Kim and Kong Heeyong beat Tanisha Crasto and Treesa Jolly and Yujim Sim overcame Ashmita to complete the rout.

Up against Chinese Taipei, the Indian men's team fought hard with K. Srikanth and H.S. Prannoy pulling off wins. Lakshya Sen and the doubles pair of M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila won a game but Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lost in straight games.

Pulling through: Prannoy managed a three-game win over Lu. • BADMINTONPHOTO/COURTESY OF BWF

The results:

Thomas Cup: Chinese Taipei bt India 3-2 (Tien Chen Chou bt Lakshya Sen 21-19, 13-21, 21-17; Yang Lee & Chi-Lin Wang bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty 21-11, 21-19; Tzu Wei Wang lost to K. Srikanth 19-21, 16-21; Ching Yao Lu & Po Han Yang bt M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila 21-17, 19-21, 21-19; Chia Hung Lu lost to H.S. Prannoy 18-21, 21-17, 18-21).

Uber Cup: Korea bt India 5-0 (An Seyoung bt P.V. Sindhu 21-15, 21-14; Sohee Lee & Seungchan Shin 21-13, 21-12; Gaeun Kim bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-10, 21-10; Hye Jeong Kim & Heeyong Kong bt Tanisha Crasto & Treesa Jolly 21-14, 21-11; Yujin Sim bt Ashmita Chaliha 21-18, 21-17).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

State Mini Olympic Games from May 16

The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Government of Karnataka, will organise the 2nd State Mini Olympic Games from May 16 to 22 in Bengaluru. Close to 5000 athletes, all in the under-14 category, are expected to participate in the week-long event. Competitions will be conducted across 21 disciplines including athletics, badminton, hockey, swimming and table tennis.

Route & timings for TCS 10K

Organisers of the TCS World 10k race announced on Wednesday that the route and timings for the elite men's and women's races (May 15) will remain unchanged from 2019, the last time the race was run on the streets as against the virtual race in 2021.

The elite women's run will start at 7:10 a.m. while the men will follow at 8 a.m. The Open 10k run, which is for the general public and the first to begin at 5:30 a.m., will however see a slight change in its routine because of Metro rail construction work on Kamaraj Road. The distance lost there will be gained inside Cubbon Park.

Pavandeep excels as Panthers CA makes final

Pavandeep Bharadakane's all-round show (114 n.o. & 3/20) helped Panthers CA thrash Gopalan SA by 113 runs and enter the under-12 category final of the Tiger Cup cricket tournament, on Wednesday. In the summit clash, Panthers will take on Six Cricket Academy, which defeated PESCA by eight wickets.

The scores (semifinals): Panthers CA 212/2 in 26 overs (Pavandeep Bharadakane 114 n.o., V. Pranav 29) bt Gopalan SA 99 in 18 overs (Pavandeep Bharadakane 3/20).

PESCA 92 in 28.3 overs (Paarth Madan 3/8) lost to Six CA 93/2 in 14.3 overs (Rafa Poonacha 29).

Big win for Rebels FC

Rebels FC defeated Income Tax FC 4-1 in the BDFA A-division football league, here on Wednesday.

The results: Rebels FC 4 (Donboklang Lyngdoh 4, Faizal Zafa Konor 26, Emmanuel Ebenezer 34, Md. Rameef 40+1) bt Income Tax FC 1 (Amal Deepak 29); Friends United FC 4 (Lalmuanzova Khawalhring 14, Dhanush Kumar 19, Bharath (OG) 77, R. Pavithran 78) bt Blitz FC 0.

C-div: Reds United FC 4 (Sanjay 24, Suresh 28, 42, Nehal 62) bt Young Gems FC 1 (V. Pranav 34).

Nandu Memorial in last four

Nandu Memorial FC defeated Cap Life Bangalore 4-3 on penalties to enter the south zone semifinal of the KSFA C-division football league, here on Wednesday.

The result: Nandu Memorial FC 1 (Karthigeyan 7) bt Cap Life Bangalore 1 (Vishnu 2) [4-3 on penalties].

UEFA picks Berlin for Euro final

ASSOCIATED PRESS
VIENNA

The 2024 European Championship final will be at Berlin's Olympiastadion and the opening match will be at Bayern Munich's stadium, UEFA's executive committee decided on Tuesday.

Matches will be played in Germany in three clusters of venues with groups split between only two of them.

The 24-team tournament will open on June 14 and the final is on July 14. Germany had hosted the World Cup in 2006.

Five quarterfinalists officially confirmed

HOCKEY

SPORTS BUREAU

The first five quarterfinalists of the competition were officially confirmed after the final round of league matches in Pool A to E on the sixth day of the 12th Hockey India senior women's National championship in Bhopal on Wednesday.

With the respective Pool toppers already decided, the battle on the day was for second-place honours in the respective groups. Chandigarh defeated Bihar 6-2 in Pool A to win its only league game while Assam registered an easy 8-0 victory over Bengal in Pool B. Priyanshi Singh struck a hat-trick and captain Elina Tigga scored a brace.

In Pool C, Chhattisgarh recorded a 7-1 victory over Tripura riding on three goals by Anjali Mahto. Priya scored the lone goal for Tripura two minutes from time. In Pool D, Rajasthan fended off Uttarakhand in a fighting game for a 3-1 win.

In Pool E, Andhra Pradesh thrashed Puducherry 16-0 after leading 9-0 at half-time.

The results:

Pool A: Chandigarh 6 (Monika, Sonu, Kavita, Rajani, Priyanka, Rajani Waskale) bt Bihar 2 (Nutan Topno, Nusrat Khatoon).

Pool B: Assam 8 (Priyanshi Singh 3, Elina Tigga 2, Milka Surin, Mixiimi, Khushboo Prajapati) bt Bengal 0.

Pool C: Chhattisgarh 7 (Anjali Mahto 3, Leena Kosare 2, Rushali Kashyap, Pooja Yadav) bt Tripura 1 (Priya).

Pool D: Rajasthan 3 (Reena Kanwar Balawat 2, Nidhi Chanderia) bt Uttarakhand 1 (Monika Chand).

Pool E: Andhra Pradesh 16 (Lotla Mary 5, K.V.V. Durga 4, Bandaru Padmavathi 4, Pulicherla Roshitha 3) bt Puducherry 0.

Aussies to play white-ball series in SA

ANI
CAPE TOWN

The three-match Test series between South Africa and Australia, which was postponed in March 2021 due to COVID-19, has now been replaced by five ODIs and three T20Is.

South Africa will host Australia for eight white-ball matches in August 2023 in order to prepare for the 2023 ODI World Cup.

According to *ESPNcricinfo*, Cricket South Africa (CSA)is not expected to lose any money as a result of the change.

Though seven fewer days of cricket will be played now, the white-ball fixtures will make an equal amount of revenue for CSA as the three Tests would have, which is why it has agreed to the change.

Liverpool rallies to keep its title hunt alive

Mane nets winner against Villa; facile win for Barcelona

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
LONDON

Sadio Mane headed the winner as Liverpool came from a goal down to edge Aston Villa 2-1 on Tuesday and keep alive its hopes of reclaiming the Premier League title from leader Manchester City.

In front of a boisterous home crowd, Villa flew out of the blocks and took a third-minute lead when Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson spilled a header from Douglas Luiz straight back into the path of the Brazilian forward who fired in from close range.

Juergen Klopp's side equalised less than three minutes later, when Virgil Van Dijk met Trent Alexander-Arnold's free kick and although Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez managed to get a hand to his effort, Joel Matip poked in the rebound.

Mane put Liverpool ahead in the 65th minute with his 15th league goal of the season, a smart header from a Luis Diaz cross.

Drawing level: Matip slots in Liverpool's equaliser against Villa. • REUTERS

In La Liga, a Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang brace earned Barcelona a 3-1 home win against Celta Vigo, putting Xavi Hernandez's side on course to secure a spot in the lucrative Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia with a second-place finish.

Barca had a scare when the game was interrupted so defender Ronald Araujo could receive medical attention after suffering a head injury in a collision with team mate Gavi.

He appeared unconscious as he lay on the ground and an ambulance entered the pitch to remove the player who stretchered to the hospital.

Earlier, fifth-placed Real Betis thrashed Valencia 3-0 away to keep alive its hopes of finishing in the top four and qualifying for the Champions League next season.

The results:

Premier League: Aston Villa 1 (Douglas Luiz 3) lost to Liverpool 2 (Matip 6, Mane 65).

La Liga: Valencia 0 lost to Real Betis 3 (Willian 57, Canales 87, Iglesias 90); Granada 1 (Collado 35) bt Athletic Bilbao 0.

Barcelona 3 (Depay 30, Aubameyang 41, 48) bt Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 50).

'Eight years too short to develop fan loyalty for ISL clubs'

LaLiga head Cachaza makes a case for building football-only stadiums

FOOTBALL

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Many years ago, Jose Antonio Cachaza used to go to Atletico Madrid's matches in Spain with his little son. And that's how the beautiful game became a crucial part of their lives.

"I remember the day Fernando Torres retired. In his speech to fans, he said he became an Atletico fan because he used to go with his grandfather to the stadium," said Cachaza, the Managing Director of LaLiga India, in a chat with *The Hindu* here on Wednesday.

"And that's a part of our relationship with our local club and basically you know that from September to June, every other Sunday or Saturday now, you go to the stadium. Always. That has been my case too, I have to go to the Atletico stadium with my son, now my son goes there with whoever he wants.

The Indian Super League has completed eight editions and Cachaza feels it will take longer to build such a loyalty.

"In eight years it's very difficult to develop that loyalty in India. Why do you have that loyalty in Kolkata, that's because those guys have been going to see Mohun Bagan or East Bengal matches since they were kids," said Cachaza who was in Kochi to celebrate the Spanish premier league LaLiga's 'five years in India' since the opening of its India office.

"The ISL is in an early stage and I think it is going in the right direction. But these things take time. We (LaLiga) are celebrating our 95th season," he said.

"Now, the ISL is evolving into what seems to be a real league. May be, it doesn't

Cachaza. • STAN RAYAN

help that most of the matches are played on weekdays when it is not easy for fans to go to stadium.

"Many clubs are playing in cricket stadiums, they are not the best for watching good football. You're too far away from the touch line.

"So, improvement in stadia is probably something that India will have to take care of soon.

"I don't think any ISL club is playing in a football-only stadium.

"A football-only stadium will bring fans closer to the game and the relationship with players will be even closer. I think that will be a good step forward."

Jyothi breaks 100m hurdles National record

ATHLETICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A month after her wind-assisted effort was not registered as a National record, hurdler Jyothi Yarraji has finally made the mark her own while winning the 100m event in Cyprus in 13.23 seconds on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old clinched the gold in Cyprus International Meet at Limassol under a head wind speed of 0.1m/s. The old record of 13.38 stood in the name of Anuradha Biswal (2002).

The Cyprus meet is a World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger Category D event. Jyothi, who trains under Joseph Hillier at Odisha Athletics High Performance Center in Bhubaneswar, had clocked 13.09 at the Federation Cup in Kozhikode last month but since the wind speed was +2.1 m/s more than the permissible +2.0 m/s, it was not counted.

Amlan Borgohain finished third in men's 200m in 21.32. Lili Das won the women's 1,500m in 4m, 17.79.

Rudrankksh wins air rifle gold in Junior World Cup

India on top of the medals table, ahead of France, Germany and Poland

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

Junior World Championship silver medallist Rundrankksh Patil stepped it up at the crunch and clinched the air rifle gold medal by defeating compatriot Abhinav Shaw 17-13 in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, on Wednesday.

After shooting 627.5 in qualification, the 18-year-old Rudrankksh shot 260.9 in the second stage to be comfortably ahead of the 14-year-old Abhinav Shaw, a trainee of the Lakshya Club, making his maiden international appearance.

On the podium: Abhinav, champion Rudrankksh and Palberg. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nils Palberg of Germany had to settle for the bronze, as he missed the fight for gold by 0.1 point. Paarth Makhija and Umamahesh Maddineni also did well to finish among the top seven in a field of 52 shooters.

In women's air rifle, 18-year-old Ramita, a bronze medallist in the Junior World Championship in Peru last year, topped in the first two stages before being beaten to the gold 16-8 by Oceanne Muller of France.

Creditable effort

Ramita had shot 630.6 in qualification and 261.0 in the second stage, a creditable effort in a strong field of 86 shooters.

With a gold and two silver medals, India was on top of the medals table, ahead of France, Germany and Poland, accounting for 50% of the medals from the two events.

The results:

10m air rifle: Men: 1. Rudrankksh Patil 17 (260.9) 627.5; 2. Abhinav Shaw 13 (257.7) 626.7; 3. Nils Palberg (Ger) 257.6 (626.4); 5. Paarth Makhija 206.2 (627.8); 7. Umamahesh Maddineni 625.6.

Women: 1. Oceanne Muller (Fra) 16 (260.4) 629.9; 2. Ramita 8 (261.0) 630.6; 3. Juia Ewa Piotrowska (Pol) 259.0 (628.6); 17. Arya Borse 625.5; 22. Zeena Khitta 624.5; 43. Tillottama Sen 620.8.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

INVITATION OF BIDS– TWO COVER –ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission)

IFB No.	04 & 05 /F.Oddanchatram CWSS/JJM / SDO I/ CW /Dt. 11.05.2022
Funding Pattern	**AMRUT 2.O and Jal Jeevan Mission**
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai – 625 007
Sale of Bid	**18.05.2022 to 20.06.2022** upto **17.45 hours**
EMD Payable at	Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, RWS Division, Dindigul
Pre Bid meeting	**02.06.2022** at **11.00 hours** at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**21.06.2022** before **15.00 hours** at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**22.06.2022** at **15.30 hours** at the office of Tender Invitee through E-Tender Portal

Sl. No.	Name of work	Appx. value (Rs.in Crore including GST)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
	Jal Jeevan Mission - Providing CWSS to Oddanchatram Municipality, Keeranur and Neikkarapatti Town Panchayats and 506 rural Habitations in Dindigul District with Bulk provision to 22 rural habitations in Tiruppur District with river Azhiyar as source including paid maintenance for a period of 5 years. **(Period of completion– 18 months)**		
01	**Package I**	**300.00**	**150.00**
02	**Package II**	**325.00**	**163.00**

DPR / 2205 / TENDER / 2022 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER. EVERY DROP COUNTS

Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai

"சேமிப்பை சுடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சுதந்திரம் பறிந்து சிந்தியும் பெற்றோம்"

A 80-BGE